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New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

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Macroeconomic policy questions

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Globalization and interdependence

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly

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Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Letter dated 27 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit, herewith, the Marrakech Declaration on South-South Cooperation and the Marrakech Framework for the Implementation of South-South Cooperation adopted on the occasion of the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation of the Group of 77, held in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco, from 16 to 19 December 2003 (see annexes I and II).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 39, 47, 50, 60, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 100, 101, 102, 104 and 105.

(*Signed*) Mohamed **Bennouna**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom
of Morocco to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of 77

Annex I to the letter dated 15 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

MARRAKECH DECLARATION ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

We, the participants at the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 16 to 19 December 2003, guided by the provisions of the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the First South Summit held in Havana, Cuba, 10 – 14 April 2000, and having reviewed the progress made in South-South Cooperation,

1. Recognize that South-South cooperation is not an option but an imperative to complement North-South cooperation in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. South-South cooperation is about the tremendous force of solidarity, with which we can overcome even the biggest challenges. While we continue to recognize North-South cooperation as fundamental for our development and expect solidarity, understanding, cooperation and real partnership from the North, express the conviction that development remains our primary responsibility.

2. Reaffirm our commitment to South-South cooperation and undertake to further strengthen it in different areas, including information and communication technology, trade, investment, finance, debt management, food, agriculture, water, energy, health and education and transit transport as well as in related North-South issues. We undertake to enhance and expand exchange of resources, experiences and know-how in these areas to make South-South cooperation contribute to economic growth and sustainable development.

3. Express the conviction that the South-South cooperation is more needed today than ever. No single country, even the most advanced among developing countries, has much hope of reaching individually expected growth and development and influencing outcomes of international agenda. But, collectively, our countries can play a more effective role in achieving development objectives and in shaping international relations.

4. Agree to work towards ensuring necessary interface between the modalities for North-South and South-South cooperation, which should converge in the search for the same development objectives, including the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, we undertake to make South-South cooperation an efficient tool to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.

5. Recognize that the experience of developing countries has varied widely. Some developing countries have demonstrated strong achievements in various domains of development, while on others setbacks have also been registered in different spheres of economic and social fields.

6. Recognize that South-South cooperation has experienced successes and failures which are linked, in a broad sense, to the external international environment which influenced development policies and strategies. In the fifties and sixties, South-South cooperation has evolved and been developed in the context of the common struggle of developing countries to

reach development and growth. The institutions for South-South cooperation were developed in this period, including G77 and NAM. These and other multilateral organizations, including UNCTAD, UNDP and other institutions of the UN system, helped formulate and articulate southern needs and concerns, and provided a framework for fruitful North-South dialogue and mutually beneficial relationships. In this context, we reiterate the importance of more direct cooperation between the Group of 77 and NAM in order to promote South-South cooperation through concrete initiatives and projects in all fields of interest to the countries of the South.

7. Reaffirm the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation and, in this regard, welcome the recent initiative taken by the Asian-African Sub-regional Organizations Conference (AASROC) in Bandung, Indonesia, from 29-30 July 2003 to establish a New Strategic Partnership for promoting South-South cooperation, which is to be launched during the Asian-African Summit in Indonesia in 2005, through, inter alia, strengthening consultations among the secretariats of sub-regional organizations.

8. Stress that the economic growth in several developing countries and the strengthening of their domestic capabilities can have strong impacts on the scope and effectiveness of South-South cooperation. Several developing countries have now diversified economies and rely on well-trained human resources. Current trends in international trade and investment liberalization as well as the increasing regional and economic integration offer new opportunities and challenges for South-South cooperation. Several developing countries play and active role in the transfer of knowledge and experience as well as in the creative expansion of technologies aimed at increasing productivity and competitiveness.

9. Aware that the South has both the desire and potential to move South-South cooperation within and beyond regional and subregional boundaries. Market proximity, similarity in products and processes and business cultures affinity that can offer investors from developing country greater opportunities for a new wave of South-to-South trade and investment are added advantages.

10. Note with satisfaction that international community has recognized the importance of South-South cooperation in various United Nations Conferences and Summits and underscore the need for strengthening the support by the United Nations system for such cooperation. Recently, the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey in March 2002 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in August 2002, encouraged South-South cooperation, including through triangular cooperation. In this regard, we support UNDP's mandate in the implementation of technical cooperation and capacity building activities to achieve sustainable development.

11. Recognize the value of triangular cooperation as a useful arrangement in international cooperation. Such arrangements should be encouraged so that the expertise of developing countries, with the financial support of developed countries, can be used to assist other developing countries, especially the LDCs, the LLDCs and SIDS bearing in mind their different levels of development. Recognize also the importance of the triangular cooperation modalities involving international organizations which contribute in a positive manner to the development needs of developing countries.

12. Recognize that NGOs, business community, foundations, universities and other development actors are emerging as key partners and have contributed significantly to meet development challenges and objectives in both developed and developing countries. This implies the emergence of new system of relations with and among international cooperation actors, which undoubtedly will influence international cooperation policies and modalities in both North and South countries. Therefore, we decide to take into consideration these important developments in designing strategies and procedures for international cooperation, including South-South cooperation.

13. Reaffirm the importance of building bridges across the South, which has always been our objective since the inception of South-South cooperation. Stress therefore that our aim today must be to further strengthen and widen those bridges to reach our development objectives and to be able to integrate into the world economy and influence the processes that shape the new international economic relations of the 21st century. In this context, the South needs to conduct its own analysis and design and implement its own policies to address the challenges of the world economy. We reiterate our determination to take the necessary measures, including the identification of resources and design appropriate follow up mechanisms to make full use of South-South cooperation.

14. Underline that with the rapid integration of markets, mobility of capital and significant increases in investment flows around the world and overall process of globalization have opened new challenges and opportunities. But the benefit and costs of globalization are unevenly distributed with developing countries facing economic and social difficulties in meeting this challenge. Furthermore, there is a growing recognition that economic liberalization does not lead automatically and universally to social and economic benefits.

15. Recognize that the asymmetries of the emerging international economic order, the governance of international affairs, the current situation of the world economic and other global issues have unfavorable effects on developing countries, giving rise to economic and social instability. We encourage efforts to increase the participation of developing countries in global economic governance, thus allowing those countries to benefit from globalization and better cope with its unfavorable effects.

16. Mindful of the slow pace of global economic recovery and absence of a global coordinated approach to address the negative consequences of cyclical financial crises, we call for concerted efforts to enhance the coherence of global economic systems and their effectiveness in supporting development.

17. Note with concern that many commitments made at the UN conferences and summits in the economic and social fields have not yet been fully implemented. In this context, we also express concern that international economic environment, markedly characterized by cyclical financial crises, external debt problems, insufficient levels of ODA, instability in commodity markets, the current uncertainty of the evolution of the multilateral trading system and disparities in foreign direct investment flows and income distribution worldwide, are not conducive to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

18. Remain concerned that despite several initiatives undertaken over the past decade, the debt crisis persists as a major impediment the development of our countries. We reiterate the urgent

need for the international community, particularly donor countries and international institutions to adopt effective, comprehensive and equitable solutions to the debt crisis in a time-bound fashion. In this regard, we call for the speedy, effective and full implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative.

19. The WTO Ministerial Conference held in Cancun from 09 to 14 September 2003, though a setback in the implementation of the Doha development agenda, demonstrated the urgent need for a better representation of the developing country's interests in the international trading system and great solidarity amongst our countries to achieve this goal. In this regard, we undertake to display the highest degree of unity and solidarity in global issues towards a greater articulation of our concerns and interests.

20. Reaffirm that South-South trade should be enhanced and further market access from developing countries must continue to stimulate South-South trade, including through the launching of new round of negotiations within the Global System of Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) which could take place on the occasion of UNCTAD-XI in Sao Paulo in June 2004.

21. Stress our support to UNCTAD as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, we welcome the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 57/270B to make UNCTAD key player in the follow-up mechanism of the Monterrey Consensus. We commit ourselves to working together to make UNCTAD XI (Sao Paulo, Brazil, 14-18 June 2004) a successful global endeavor involving all actors and stakeholders in development. UNCTAD-XI will provide a major opportunity to address the asymmetries and inequalities in the international marketplace, the structural limitations, inadequate supply capacities and vulnerabilities of developing countries to the external economic financial environment and help to put in place a development oriented multilateral trading system. We count on UNCTAD support in particular in the area of trade and development.

22. Express concern that the ongoing fluctuations in commodity prices and declining terms of trade continue to impede development and growth in many commodity-dependent countries hindering them from achieving the Millennium Development Goals. While underlining the importance of international cooperation, including South-South cooperation to address the concerns of commodity-dependent developing countries, we undertake to strengthen our efforts in the process of commodity diversification to overcome supply constraints.

23. Aware that the new trend towards a greater liberalization of trade has opened up fresh opportunities for trade and investment in developing countries. The countries of the South must therefore work to strengthen Regional Economic Groupings as well as South-South cooperation. Therefore, we undertake to further strengthen Subregional and Regional Economic Groupings as well as interregional arrangements to promote South-South commercial cooperation.

24. Emphasize vigorously the need to promote access to and transfer of knowledge and technology to developing countries, including information and communication technology. We welcome the convening of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in two

stages: Geneva 2003 and Tunisia 2005. We regard this as a unique opportunity to find effective and innovative ways to use the potential of information and communication technologies at the service of the development of the developing countries. We call on all countries to participate actively in the preparatory process of the second stage of the Summit to take place in Tunisia in November 2005 and in the conference itself. We invite all Member States and call on the ITU, with the effective support of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, to maintain and strengthen its commitment to the process, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions.

25. Commend the dedication of African leaders and people in the implementation of NEPAD, which aims to foster a genuine partnership for the development of Africa; we commit ourselves to support the implementation of NEPAD through South-South cooperation. We strongly support the ongoing efforts by the international community to assist Africa in the implementation of NEPAD and call upon donors, the United Nations System, civil society and the private sector to further contribute effectively to the implementation of NEPAD.

26. Reaffirm the need to address the special concerns of the Least Developed Countries and call for the effective and timely implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Decade 2001-2010. In this regard, taking advantage of economic complementarities among developing countries, we resolve to promote initiatives in favor of LDCs in the context of South-South cooperation, including through, inter alia, triangular mechanisms to better benefit the LDCs. In this context, the LDCs ministerial conference with the Chairman of G-77 held at Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, from 24 to 25 June 2003 has generated a momentum, which needs to be built on.

27. Welcome the Almaty Programme of Action adopted at the United Nations Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community on Transit Transport Cooperation, held in Almaty on 28 and 29 August 2003, which addresses the special needs of landlocked developing countries within a New Global Framework for transit transport cooperation for Landlocked and transit developing countries, and call on all stakeholders to fully and effectively implement the Almaty Programme of Action.

28. While stressing the significant challenges posed by the vulnerabilities of SIDS, we call on the international community, especially the bilateral and multilateral donors to honor and renew their commitments to the Barbados Programme of Action and all efforts being undertaken by SIDS, including through South-South cooperation, to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We also urge their full support and effective participation in the International Meeting to be hosted by the Government of Mauritius in 2004 to comprehensively review the Barbados Programme of Action for SIDS.

29. Reaffirm the importance of South-South solidarity, and in this regard we firmly reject the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other coercive measures, including unilateral sanctions against developing countries, which contribute in impeding their economic growth and development and are inconsistent with the principles of international law, UN Charter and the principles of the multilateral trading system.

30. Reaffirm our commitments to strengthen our efforts to implement the programmes and plans of action for South-South cooperation previously adopted at the South Conferences and

Summit, in particular the Havana Programme of Action. In this context, we have identified priorities, for immediate implementation in the areas of regional cooperation, trade and investment, food and agriculture, water, health in particular HIV/AIDS pandemic, malaria, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases, education and information and communication technology, including through sharing of best practices. We commit ourselves to the implementation of these priorities and initiatives identified at the High-level Conference on South-South cooperation and to expediting the achievement of the time-bound objectives contained therein.

31. Convey our appreciation and gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco and its people for the excellent organization and hosting of the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation and the warm hospitality which were bestowed on us in the city of Marrakech.

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Annex II to the letter dated 15 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

MARRAKECH FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The Participants at the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 16 to 19 December 2003, having adopted the Marrakech Declaration on South-South Cooperation, guided by the provisions of the Havana Programme of Action, and while stressing that the implementation of South-South Cooperation depends upon its adequate integration in national, subregional and regional and international cooperation policies and strategies, agree on the implementation of the following measures and initiatives:

1. Undertaking a study, with the support of UNDP, on the potential of intensifying interactions between business agents in developing countries, both from the private and the public sector, including recommendations on ways of fully exploring the potential of joint ventures in different areas. Such study will be presented for discussion and recommendation to a Symposium to be held at the margin of the Second South Summit in 2005 with the aim of analyzing existing joint ventures among the countries of the South, identifying ways and means to enhance such joint ventures and establish a South database on joint ventures.

2. Continuing support for the exchange of expertise and experiences among research institutions and universities in developing countries and the establishment of a South-South Network of such institutions and universities that promote education, technical skills development and technology transfer through exchange of programmes, students and academia, provision of scholarships and grants for education and training.

3. Working toward achieving the objectives of eradicating illiteracy with the development of projects on basic education using the experience and know-how of some developing countries, including through triangular cooperation.

4. Supporting the establishment of an International Voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund as an innovative mechanism to contribute towards building of an inclusive Global Information Society and to the implementation of the Digital Solidarity Agenda set forth in the Plan of Action adopted at the World Summit on Information Society held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003.

5. Enhancing coordination and joint negotiating positions on major issues of the multilateral trading negotiations, in particular the Doha Work Programme. In this regard, mechanisms could be identified to share information among the developing countries and build capacity.

6. Working together to address constraints in cross-border movement of services suppliers from countries of the South to markets of developed countries as this is crucial to the expansion of exports and for poverty reduction.

7. Supporting UNCTAD's role in policy analysis and consensus building to assist the South in identifying and evolving development benchmarks in multilateral negotiations.

8. Promoting investment among developing countries, including through bilateral agreements (BITS), the sharing of experiences towards capacity building in investment promotion and information sharing on investment opportunities.

9. Convening, no later than 2005, a G-77 Conference on Physical Infrastructures for Development with the aim of addressing South-South cooperation in this area, given the experiences of different regions and in this regard requesting the IFCC to discuss the scope and venue of this Conference and make recommendations to the Annual Ministerial Meeting of G-77.

10. Urging members of the GSTP to fully benefit from this instrument for the revitalization of South-South trade and strengthen its effectiveness, by expediting the ratification of tariff commitments negotiated during its second round and continuing work in progress in Geneva on a third round of negotiations, which could be launched on the occasion of UNCTAD-XI, in Sao Paulo, in June 2004.

11. Supporting activities and measures, in particular in the framework of WTO related to the access to markets of developed countries of products of developing countries, taking into account, inter alia, the needs of LDCs and highly indebted developing countries to overcome their critical situation.

12. Facilitating and supporting the accession of all developing countries that applied to the WTO, on the basis of transparent conditions, and emphasizing that no country should be prevented from participating in the multilateral trading system and its accession to the WTO should not be hindered on account of non-trade related considerations and that candidates for accession should not be requested to have commitments beyond those of members.

13. Exchanging experiences and expertise in the area of agricultural production with the aim of enhancing productivity and food security, and supporting, in this context, the Special Programme of Food Security (SPFS) undertaken under the auspices of FAO, in which South-South cooperation is a fundamental component and undertaking to fully use its potential in order to enhance solidarity among developing countries and to allow developing countries to benefit from the experiences and expertise of other developing countries in food production. In this context, encouraging other funds, agencies and programmes of the United Nations to initiate or strengthen similar efforts in their respective fields of actions and responsibilities.

14. Promoting cooperative actions among developing countries aimed at dealing with the commodity issues, with the support of UNCTAD, FAO and the Common Fund for Commodities.

15. Supporting the holding of an International Seminar on Food Security to be held in the second half of 2004 in Brazil.

16. Working towards a greater South-South cooperation to successfully combat HIV/AIDS pandemic, malaria, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases, including sharing of

experiences, expertise and best practices, as well as cooperative arrangements in procurement of preventive and curative drugs, giving special attention to the offers of cooperation made by some developing countries including concerning medical personnel and exploring triangular cooperation.

17. Using fully the potential of South-South cooperation in following up the implementation of the Decision of August 30th, 2003 on paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health, to be incorporated in the TRIPS Agreement.

18. Urging the international community to support efforts by the countries of the South in addressing the challenges posed by HIV/AIDS.

19. Supporting the implementation of the South-South Healthcare Delivery Programme and urging for broader collaboration of partners and countries of the South while acknowledging efforts made by some developing countries in the supply of medical personnel.

20. Participating in the Training Resource Platform developed by UNCTAD in the area of trade and development, aiming at strengthening training capacities in developing countries.

21. Sharing experiences and expertise on programmes especially related to women and children.

22. Supporting and participating in the launching, in the first part of 2004, of the e-tourism initiative designed by UNCTAD to assist developing countries in the promotion of tourism.

23. Developing South-South cooperation on debt management with the support of relevant organizations including UNCTAD, using experiences and expertise of developing countries to benefit other developing countries especially the highly indebted poor developing countries.

24. Acknowledging the need to enlarge the involvement of developing countries in joint efforts to overcome extreme poverty and, in this context, taking note of the initiatives undertaken by the developing countries, including those announced at the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

25. Inviting the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to work with developing countries to formulate and help implement joint and mutually beneficial programmes to respond to the urgent needs of the developing countries, and also inviting the UNDP to ensure that the South-South dimension is mainstreamed in all its activities. In this regard, taking note with interest of the concrete recommendations of the High-level Meeting of Pivotal Partners of South-South and Triangular Cooperation held in November 2003 in Hangzhou, China.

26. Supporting the convening of a Water Forum with a view to promote the exchange of scientific and technological know-how and the sharing of experiences and best practices among developing countries, after the consideration of this issue by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

27. Supporting the strengthening of the UNDP Special Unit for South-South cooperation as a focal point for South-South cooperation within the United Nations System, including through

enhancing its capacity to coordinate South-South issues in the United Nations system, which would allow the Unit to adequately map experiences and promote and support initiatives in the domain of South-South cooperation.

28. Establishing and strengthening regular mechanisms of consultations, communication, and sharing of information and experiences among regional and sub-regional economic groupings as well as development supportive networks.

29. Ensuring the full use of triangular cooperation and the engagement of relevant international and regional organizations as well as a full involvement of business community and civil society to strengthen South-South cooperation.

30. Supporting existing platforms of cooperation concluded between African and Asian countries and between African and Latin American countries as effective tools in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in particular with regard to exchange of expertise.

31. Supporting the United Nations General Assembly's High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation to explore possibilities of expanding South-South cooperation programmes within the UN system.

32. Encouraging greater consultation and cooperation among national TCDC units at the regional level where appropriate in order to enhance effective and efficient undertaking of programmes and projects.

33. Encouraging the strengthening and periodic updating of the WIDE Electronic databank operated by UNDP Special Unit on South-South Cooperation, in coordination with governments, allowing for wide diffusion of and access to the information contained therein, including experiences, best practices and potential partners in South-South cooperation.

34. Supporting bilateral initiatives undertaken by some developing countries for debt cancellation to benefit LDCs and in this regard encouraging other developing countries to also undertake further initiatives to strengthen solidarity with this most vulnerable group of developing countries.

35. Continuing also all initiatives aimed at enhancing market access for the products of export interest to the LDCs and calling for further similar initiatives by developing countries.

36. Promoting initiatives in favour of the least developed countries in the context of South-South cooperation by implementing projects in areas such as human and productive capacity building, technical assistance, exchange of best practices, particularly in issues relating to health, education, professional training, environment, science and technology, trade, investment and transit transport cooperation.

37. Encouraging, in the framework of implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, the landlocked developing countries and the transit developing countries to continue intensifying their collaboration and cooperation through existing transit arrangements and agreements among them. In this regard, calling on donor countries and multilateral financial

and development institutions to ensure effective implementation of Almaty Programme of Action by providing LLDCs and transit developing countries with appropriate financial and technical assistance.

38. Enhancing policies to support SIDS efforts to meet the significant challenges posed by their structural vulnerabilities, and calling on the international community to honour and renew their commitments to the Barbados Programme of Action and to support all efforts being undertaken by SIDS, including through South-South cooperation, to attain the international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

39. Continuing to pay special attention to the situation of post-conflict developing countries, in particular LDCs, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructures and to assist them in achieving their development priorities.

40. Intensify South-South cooperation for the preservation, protection and promotion of traditional knowledge, genetic resources and folklore and the building of consensus in relevant international fora and the development of legally binding international instruments on intellectual property rights regarding these issues.

41. Promoting cooperation in the exchange of scientific and technological know-how in sourcing, efficient management, preservation and sustainable use of water, in accordance with the existing and relevant provisions of international law.

42. Supporting the holding of an International Forum on Development from 16 to 17 February 2004 in Doha, Qatar, to exchange views on achieving development objectives and addressing related challenges.

43. Supporting consultations and continuous exchange of views among developing countries on issues which are the subject of the high-level United Nations events as well as on other emerging issues relevant to development.

44. Taking immediate steps to expand the resources of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF).

45. Strengthening the substantive capacity of the G-77 Secretariat (Office of the Chairman) through the payment by the members of the Group of 77 on a regular basis and in a timely manner of their financial contributions.

46. Strengthening the South Centre as a think-tank of the countries of the South to undertake research programmes to support their negotiations.

47. Urging all Member States to make special contributions to the G-77 Special Fund for the follow-up and implementation of the outcome decisions of the Group as established by Heads of State and Government in Havana.

48. Recommending to the IFCC-XI to establish an open-ended intergovernmental study group which will convene a workshop among developing countries to address the viability of the proposed G-77 Trade and Development Bank and to submit a report for consideration on the

outcome through the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the G-77 to the Second South Summit in 2005.

49. Strengthening cooperation and coordination between the G-77 and the NAM in promoting South-South Cooperation by requesting the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) to meet more regularly to discuss issues of common interest in the field of South-South cooperation where synergies could be explored.

50. Establishing under the responsibility of the Chair of G-77 of an open-ended Follow-up Group to South-South Cooperation which should report to the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the G-77 on the implementation of South-South cooperation.

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 138
Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Performance report on the budget of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003

Report of the Secretary-General

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Summary

The present report contains the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003.

The total expenditure for MONUC for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 has been linked to the Mission's objective through a number of results-based frameworks, grouped by components, namely, political, humanitarian, human rights and child protection, disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration, military, civilian police and support.

Performance of financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars. Budget year is from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003.)

			Variance	
Category	*Apportionment*	*Expenditure*	*Amount*	*Percentage*
Military and police personnel	189 163.3	156 973.6	32 189.7	17.0
Civilian personnel	97 948.7	93 521.5	4 427.2	4.5
Operational costs	294 821.5	229 456.9	65 364.6	22.2
Gross requirements	**581 933.5**	**479 952.0**	**101 981.5**	**17.5**
Staff assessment income	9 644.2	10 037.6	(393.4)	(4.1)
Net requirements	**572 289.3**	**469 914.4**	**102 374.9**	**17.9**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	2 747.4	1 780.2	967.2	35.2
Total requirements	**584 680.9**	**481 732.2**	**102 948.7**	**17.6**

Human resources incumbency performance

Category	*Approved*[a]	*Actual (average)*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*[b]
Military observers[a]	760	691	9.1
Military contingents[a]	7 940	3 959	50.1
Civilian police	100	51	49.0
International staff	720	563	21.8
National staff	763	650	14.8
United Nations Volunteers	212	180	15.1

[a] Previously authorized strength was 810 military observers and 4,727 military contingent personnel (Security Council resolution 1376 (2001) of 9 November 2001).

[b] Represents the highest level of authorized strength.

[c] Based on monthly incumbency and approved strength.

The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in section V of the present report.

I. Introduction

1. The budget for the maintenance of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 was set out in the report of the Secretary-General of 2 April 2002 (A/56/897) and amounted to $606,658,400 gross ($593,799,300 net), inclusive of budgeted voluntary contributions in kind amounting to $2,747,400. It provided for 810 military observers, 5,577 military contingent personnel, 100 civilian police, 720 international staff, 763 national staff and 212 United Nations Volunteers. Subsequently, the Security Council, by its resolution 1445 (2002) of 4 December 2002, authorized the expansion of MONUC to consist of up to 8,700 military personnel, including 760 military observers.

2. On the basis of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 74 of its report of 8 May 2002 (A/56/887/Add.11), the General Assembly, by its resolution 56/252 C of 27 June 2002, appropriated an amount of $581,933,464 gross ($572,289,264 net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003. The total amount appropriated has been assessed on Member States.

II. Mandate performance

3. The mandate of MONUC was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1291 (2000) of 24 February 2000. The mandate for the performance period was provided by the Council in its resolutions 1417 (2002) of 14 June 2002 and 1445 (2002).

4. The Mission is mandated to help the Security Council achieve an overall objective, namely, to maintain international peace and security in the region.

5. Within this overall objective, the Mission, during the performance report period, has contributed to a number of accomplishments by delivering related key outputs, shown in the frameworks below. These frameworks are grouped by seven components: political; humanitarian; human rights and child protection; disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration; military; civilian police; and support. The components reflect, rather than determine, the common programmatic nature of the expected accomplishments and outputs contained therein.

6. The frameworks represent a shift towards a results-based budgeting approach. The 2002/03 budget did not include standard frameworks for planned results, which would have been the baseline against which performance would be measured and reported. Therefore, the Mission's mandate performance is presented in a transitional format showing the actual indicators of achievement and actual outputs during the 2002/03 period for which information was available. The expected accomplishments would lead to the fulfilment of the Security Council's objective within the time frame of the Mission and the actual indicators of achievement show a measurement of progress towards such accomplishments during the performance period. The actual outputs represent the contribution made by the Mission towards the expected accomplishments during the performance period.

Component 1: Political

Expected accomplishments	*Actual indicators of achievement*
1.1 Progress towards a political settlement of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	1.1.1 Gbadolite truce between the Mouvement pour la libération du Congo (MLC), the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-National (RCD-N) and the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie — Kisangani/Mouvement de libération (RCD-K/ML) negotiated and implemented on 31 December 2002
	1.1.2 Regular river traffic established between Government and MLC-controlled areas in July 2002 and first convoy to Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie — Goma (RCD-G) controlled areas in February 2003
	1.1.3 Meeting of the Military Chiefs of Staff of the belligerent parties held in Pretoria in March 2003 as part of the joint United Nations-South Africa mediation effort
	1.1.4 All parties to the Inter-Congolese Dialogue signed the Final Act on 2 April 2003
	1.1.5 Ituri Pacification Commission convened on 4 April 2003 and Ituri Interim Administration established on 14 April 2003
	1.1.6 Transitional Constitution promulgated on 4 April 2003
	1.1.7 Transition President sworn in on 7 April 2003
	1.1.8 Summit hosted by South Africa between Presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Rwanda, facilitated on 9 April 2003 on the basis of a proposal of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General
	1.1.9 International Committee in Support of the Transition (ICST) established on 10 April 2003
	1.1.10 Bujumbura Acte d'engagement negotiated and signed on 19 June 2003

Actual outputs

- Held 97 meetings with Government and key political actors; provided 30 staff-weeks direct assistance to the Inter-Congolese Dialogue
- Provided 5 Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council
- Provided good offices to key political actors: chaired meetings of the Congolese parties on the establishment of security measures, made representations to the Transitional Government to facilitate the return of the leader of the Union pour la démocratie et le progrès social (UDPS) political opposition party and facilitated the meeting of the unarmed political opposition component to designate its representatives to the transitional institutions

- Held 72 meetings with heads of main rebel groups to prevent fighting and implement the provisions of the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement on the Transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Provided security to the political parties through the establishment and activation of the Neutral Force
- Held weekly press briefings for national and international press, with direct radio broadcasting to the Congolese population
- Produced and broadcast weekly radio programmes in 5 languages; daily news bulletin; 2 special programmes per day; weekly broadcast from the National Assembly
- Facilitated the movement of the political parties (over 300 people) throughout the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Held regular meetings with regional leaders in Kampala, Kigali, Bujumbura, Pretoria and Brazzaville
- Facilitated 3 Inter-Congolese meetings: Ituri Pacification Commission meeting in Bunia; RCD-G/Government/RCD-K/ML meeting in Bujumbura; and MLC/RCD-K/ML/RCD-N meeting in Gbadolite

Comments

The involvement of regional actors in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and their continuing influence over the armed groups hampered progress at the political level. Difficulties within the Congolese component also slowed down the conclusion of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue process and the setting up of the transitional institutions. The institutions of the Transitional Government remained fragile and required a great deal of support to ensure that they are sustainable.

Component 2: Humanitarian

Expected accomplishments	*Actual indicators of achievement*
2.1 Improved living conditions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo through coordination of expanded delivery of humanitarian assistance throughout the country	2.1.1 All people in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in MONUC Bunia headquarters and at the airport received daily humanitarian support
	2.1.2 Increased access to IDPs and other vulnerable groups, including women and children, in need of humanitarian assistance
	2.1.3 Increased humanitarian assistance to crisis areas
	2.1.4 Reduction in the number of IDPs and other vulnerable groups, particularly in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Kivus, with emphasis on the Ituri region
	2.1.5 Improvement in the operational relationship between the humanitarian community (international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other agencies) and MONUC in order to increase humanitarian action countrywide

Actual outputs

- Protected and sheltered 20,000 people in MONUC premises catered to by the humanitarian community during the Bunia ethnic conflict
- Distributed 1,000 tons of humanitarian cargo throughout the country
- Facilitated 20 humanitarian convoys
- Produced and broadcast 5 radio programmes in French covering the work of humanitarian agencies each day for the population of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Participated in 240 joint assessment missions with United Nations agencies and NGOs, particularly in conflict areas and in areas difficult to access
- Systematically engaged with belligerents to negotiate safe and secure access for humanitarian workers throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly in the eastern part of the country
- Convened 816 meetings with the humanitarian community, donor Governments, the press and local authorities to highlight and discuss access issues and humanitarian needs, including the protection of relief workers and civilians

Comments

Limited access to most parts of the country prevented the effective delivery of humanitarian aid throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo, although MONUC assisted in increasing such access in some areas. Fighting and insecurity in other areas hampered success, while the lack of significant numbers of humanitarian workers from NGOs and United Nations agencies also provided a challenge to improving humanitarian conditions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Component 3: Human rights and child protection

Expected accomplishments	*Actual indicators of achievement*
3.1 Increased respect for human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	3.1.1 Acceptance by the Government of human rights issues
	3.1.2 Acceptance by the Government of child protection issues
	3.1.3 Cour d'ordre militaire abolished and new military justice system established
	3.1.4 General amnesty law passed and over 400 detainees, including political opponents and opposition journalists, released
	3.1.5 The new Transitional Constitution banned recruitment, use in war and in hostilities of anyone under age of 18; new draft legislation on child protection and a new labour code prohibiting labour by minors under 16 promulgated
	3.1.6 Special pardon issued for child soldiers or other minors
	3.1.7 Child soldiers sporadically released

Actual outputs

- Held 2 briefings on the special investigation unit's reports on Mambasa and Drodro — the latter presented by High Commissioner for Human Rights to Security Council
- Produced and broadcast 50 weekly radio educational programmes on human rights issues in 5 languages
- Conducted 10 special investigations of human rights abuses
- Conducted 522 prison and detention centre visits
- Conducted 2 forensic investigations of mass graves with the technical assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Made regular interventions, both rally and in writing, with authorities for the abolishment of the Cour d'ordre militaire and the reform of the military justice system
- Conducted 147 training sessions of NGOs/local political and administrative authorities on prevention of recruitment of child soldiers
- Conducted 19 joint assessment missions with the United Nations Children's Fund on child protection
- Distributed 10,700 posters, pamphlets and documents on child rights and prevention of recruitment of child soldiers
- Made 550 interventions with Government and warring parties on human/child rights issues
- Facilitated the first national workshop on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers
- Facilitated the development of a national framework for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers

Comments

The challenges remained enormous without strong national human rights protections structures in place and fully operational on one hand and without an end to the widespread reign of impunity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the other hand. Furthermore, the high numbers of child soldiers still on the front lines coupled with the precarious security conditions in some areas, made reintegration difficult and the risks of recruitment high.

Component 4: Disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration (DDRRR)

Expected accomplishments	*Actual indicators of achievement*
4.1 Progress towards the voluntary DDRRR of foreign armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	4.1.1 2,500 ex-combatants voluntarily entered DDRRR

Actual outputs

- Established 1 reception centre, 1 ad hoc reception centre and 2 transit centres
- Conducted 50 missions to establish and maintain contact with the armed groups not party to the ceasefire agreement with MONUC and to sensitize and persuade the armed groups to enter voluntary DDRRR
- Held 20 coordination meetings with Burundese and Rwandese senior officials
- Produced and broadcast 60 radio programmes in 5 languages focusing on the Rwandan, Ugandan and Burundese armed groups present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Produced and distributed 100,000 brochures/pamphlets
- Conducted 40 visits to the demobilization camps in Rwanda
- Issued 957 demobilization certificates

Comments

Progress was hampered by persistent outbreaks of fighting in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, with disruption and delays in DDRRR activities, the lack of full cooperation by RCD-Goma and the continued misgivings and deep suspicions towards MONUC and the Government of Rwanda on the part of the hardline leaders of the Rwandan combatants.

Component 5: Military

Expected accomplishments	*Actual indicators of achievement*
5.1 Maintenance of full compliance with, and respect of, the parties of the ceasefire and disengagement plan	5.1.1 No foreign forces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
	5.1.2 Defensive positions among the belligerent parties/troops fully maintained
	5.1.3 80 per cent reduction in ceasefire violations as compared to 484 in 2001/02
	5.1.4 Command structures of the new Integrated National Army put in place

Actual outputs

- Investigated 347 cease-fire violations
- Established and maintained 10 static observation sites
- Established and maintained 73 mobile observer teams and 4 coordination centres
- Conducted 98,550 troop-patrol-days
- Conducted 386 patrol boat riverine-patrol-days
- Provided 4 escorts on the Congo River to humanitarian convoys
- Protected 20,000 civilians in imminent danger

- Assisted and provided security to Third Party Verification Mechanism
- Coordinated with the Interim Emergency Multinational Force in Bunia for 21 days
- Conducted 371 air patrols
- Registered and destroyed 1,500 weapons

Comments

Violations of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement ceased

Component 6: Civilian police

Expected accomplishments	*Actual indicators of achievement*
6.1 Progress towards the formation of the national police force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	6.1.1 Judicial police capacity established with 253 officers and 270 rapid intervention police officers in RCD-G-controlled areas
	6.1.2 107 local police ready to deliver training
	6.1.3 Dialogue started among local law enforcement authorities

Actual outputs

- Conducted 13 assessments of local police institutions
- Implemented "train-the-trainer" programmes for 107 local police officers at Kapalata Training Centre in Kisangani
- Trained 253 judicial police officers and 270 police rapid intervention officers at Kapalata Training Centre in Kisangani
- Conducted 2 forensic investigations of mass graves with the technical assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Participated in 8 special investigations
- Facilitated re-establishment of the judicial system in Bunia through training and mentoring of the local police
- Provided daily liaison with local police and completed assessment of the police institutions in Goma
- Organized 2 seminars for trainers and 2 for advisers: 2 seminars for 35 civilian police officers held in Kisangani and 2 seminars for 15 civilian police officers held in Kinshasa
- Held 19 meetings with local police authorities in Kinshasa and 46 meetings in Kisangani
- Held 51 meetings with RCD-G authorities and 2 meetings with MLC representatives
- Developed 5 thematic training modules in Kisangani, with 45 different curriculums in various police-related fields

Comments

Progress in the implementation of the advising and assessment programme was hampered by lack of full cooperation by the RCD-G leadership and local authorities in the RCD-G controlled areas.

Component 7: Support

Expected accomplishments	*Actual indicators of achievement*
7.1 Effective and efficient logistical and administrative support to the Mission	7.1.1 Delivery time of goods and supplies throughout the Mission area reduced from 3 months to 3 weeks from time of request
	7.1.2 Increased delegation of authority in procurement, national staff recruitment and disbursement of payments implemented in 6 sectors
	7.1.3 Status of mission agreement for logistical support negotiated and signed with the Government of Tanzania in March 2003

Actual outputs

Military contingents

- Emplaced 2,092 troops and rotated 3,416 troops
- Conducted 14 contingent-owned equipment arrival verification inspections, received 448 items of contingent-owned major equipment
- Conducted 147 periodic verification inspections of 1,471 items of major equipment and self-sustainment
- Fed 5,464 military contingent personnel

Facilities and infrastructure

- Provided 4,643 troops with accommodation
- Installed and maintained 5 water treatment plants and 2 bottling plant systems
- Established, maintained and/or closed 50 team sites, 4 coordination centres, 5 regional offices
- Constructed, renovated and maintained 241 premises and prefabricated structures
- Maintained an average of 618 generators
- Produced 6,022 Geographical Information System maps

Ground transportation

- Maintained a fleet of 1,518 vehicles

Air transportation

- Operated a fleet of 36 aircraft for 23,800 flying hours (14,500 hours for fixed-wing and 9,300 hours for rotary-wing aircraft)
- Prepared 6 airfields/aprons for renovation

Naval transportation

- Undertook 28 logistic barges convoys
- Transported 78,700 passengers and 36,700 tons of cargo

Communications and information technology

- Daily communication and information technology provided to 747 military observers, 74 civilian police and 1,530 civilian personnel

Medical

- Established, operated and maintained 1 United Nations-owned level-1 and 1 level-2 medical facility
- Undertook 150 medical evacuations

Quick impact projects

- Completed 41 quick impact projects

Comments

Provision of support services was hampered by administrative and logistical difficulties posed by the size of the Mission area, dilapidated or non-existent infrastructure and lack of communication networks compounded by the delays in the recruitment of civilian support staff.

III. Resource performance

A. Financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars. Budget year is from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003.)

			Variance	
	Apportionment[a]	*Expenditures*	*Amount*	*Percentage*
Category	*(1)*	*(2)*	*(3) = (1) - (2)*	*(4) = (3) ÷ (1)*
Military and police personnel				
Military observers	48 581.4	38 669.2	9 912.2	20.4
Military contingents	134 444.1	115 455.6	18 988.5	14.1
Civilian police	6 137.8	2 848.8	3 289.0	53.6
Formed police units	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	**189 163.3**	**156 973.6**	**32 189.7**	**17.0**
Civilian personnel				
International staff	86 308.8	79 417.7	6 891.1	8.0
National staff	5 590.5	6 751.2	(1 160.7)	(20.8)
United Nations Volunteers	6 049.4	7 352.6	(1 303.2)	(21.5)
Subtotal	**97 948.7**	**93 521.5**	**4 427.2**	**4.5**
Operational costs				
General temporary assistance	—	97.2	(97.2)	—
Government-provided personnel	—	—	—	—
Civilian electoral observers	—	—	—	—
Consultants	—	—	—	—
Official travel	1 784.8	5 249.4	(3 464.6)	(194.1)
Facilities and infrastructure	71 962.4	50 658.4	21 304.0	29.6
Ground transportation	14 041.3	15 754.6	(1 713.3)	(12.2)
Air transportation	155 000.0	116 220.4	38 779.6	25.0
Naval transportation	3 903.0	2 651.5	1 251.5	32.1
Communications	18 690.0	15 325.7	3 364.3	18.0
Information technology	5 035.4	6 088.1	(1 052.7)	(20.9)
Medical	7 710.9	4 547.0	3 163.9	41.0
Special equipment	2 872.3	1 585.8	1 286.5	44.8
Other supplies, services and equipment	13 821.4	11 178.8	2 642.6	19.1
Quick-impact projects	—	100.0	(100.0)	—
Subtotal	**294 821.5**	**229 456.9**	**65 364.6**	**22.2**
Gross requirements	**581 933.5**	**479 952.0**	**101 981.5**	**17.5**
Staff assessment income	9 644.2	10 037.6	(393.4)	(4.1)
Net requirements	**572 289.3**	**469 914.4**	**102 374.9**	**17.9**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)[b]	2 747.4	1 780.2	967.2	35.2
Total requirements	**584 680.9**	**481 732.2**	**102 948.7**	**17.6**

[a] Reflects adjusted distribution of approved resources between military and police personnel and operational costs categories of expenditure.

[b] Expenditure for 2002/03 represents contributions from Fondation Hirondelle in support of MONUC radio broadcasting services.

B. Other income and adjustments

Category	*Amount (Thousands of US dollars)*
Interest income	6 547
Other/miscellaneous income	2 464
Voluntary contributions in cash	—
Prior-period adjustments	(136)
Savings on or cancellation of prior-period obligations	22 581
Total	**31 456**

C. Contingent-owned equipment: major equipment and self-sustainment

Category	*Expenditure (Thousands of US dollars)*
Major equipment	**12 500.0**
Self-sustainment	
Catering (kitchen facilities)	1 121.0
Office equipment	398.0
Electrical	488.0
Minor engineering	267.0
Laundry and cleaning	854.0
Tentage	331.0
Accommodation	823.0
Miscellaneous general stores	1 690.0
Communications	3 077.0
Medical services	2 344.0
Explosive ordnance disposal	274.0
Observation	1 188.0
Field defence stores	4.0
Subtotal	**12 859.0**
Total	**25 359.0**

Mission factors	*Percentage*	*Effective date*	*Last review date*
A. Applicable to Mission area			
Extreme environmental condition factor	1.8	April 2001	April 2001
Intensified operational condition factor	0.8	April 2001	April 2001
Hostile action/forced abandonment factor	2.9	April 2001	April 2001
B. Applicable to home country			
Incremental transportation factor	0.5-3.5		

D. Non-budgeted contributions

Category	*Actual value (Thousands of US dollars)*
Status-of-forces agreement[a]	499.6
Total	**499.6**

[a] Inclusive of market value, as estimated by MONUC, of the rental cost of land and buildings for accommodation of military personnel, office premises, air terminals and camps at Kinshasa, Kananga, Mbandaka, Kalemie, Kisangani and Kindu.

IV. Analysis of variances[1]

	Variance	
Military observers	$9,912.2	20.4%

7. The variance of $9,912,200 under this heading is attributable to adjustment by the Security Council of the authorized strength of military observers from 810 to 760 personnel (Security Council resolution 1445 (2002)), combined with the delayed deployment of observers and lower actual cost of their emplacement, rotation and repatriation. While provision was made for 810 observers, an average of 691 observers were actually deployed during the reporting period.

	Variance	
Military contingents	$18,988.5	14.1%

8. The variance of $18,988,500 under this heading is attributable primarily to the delayed deployment of military contingents and resulting savings under troop and contingent-owned equipment costs as well as under the emplacement and rotation of troops. The savings were offset by the higher actual cost of deployment by air of contingent-owned equipment of Task Forces I and II to Kindu and Bunia owing to the absence of road and railway infrastructure in the eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While provision was made for 5,577 military contingent personnel, an average of 3,959 personnel were actually deployed during the reporting period.

[1] Resource variance amounts are expressed in thousands of United States dollars.

	Variance	
Civilian police	$3,289.0	53.6%

9. The variance of $3,289,000 under this heading is attributable to delayed deployment of civilian police personnel and the delayed approval by the RCD-G authorities of the deployment of the Mission's civilian police advisers to local police facilities in Kisangani for the implementation of the advisory programme. While provision was made for 100 civilian police officers, an average of 51 officers were actually deployed during the reporting period.

	Variance	
International staff	$6,891.1	8.0%

10. The variance of $6,891,100 under this heading is attributable primarily to the delayed deployment of international staff, the closure of the Office of the Neutral Facilitator and the downsizing of the Civil Affairs Division, resulting in savings under salary and Mission subsistence allowance costs. The actual average vacancy rate during the reporting period was 21.8 per cent compared to the vacancy rate of 15 per cent assumed in the budget.

	Variance	
National staff	($1,160.7)	(20.8%)

11. The variance of $1,160,700 under this heading is attributable to the two consecutive increases during the reporting period in national salary scale, effective 1 September 2002 and 1 May 2003, combined with the incumbency of approved posts at higher than projected levels, partially offset by savings attributable to the higher actual average vacancy rate during the reporting period (14.8 per cent compared to the vacancy rate of 10 per cent assumed in the budget).

	Variance	
United Nations Volunteers	($1,303.2)	(21.5%)

12. The variance of $1,303,200 under this heading is attributable to the increase during the 2001/02 financial period, after the completion of the 2002/03 budget exercise, of the Volunteers' living allowance as well as the accelerated deployment of Volunteers and the resulting emplacement costs. While the actual average vacancy rate during the reporting period was 15.1 per cent compared to the vacancy rate of 10 per cent assumed in the budget, as at 30 June 2003 the Mission reached the full authorized strength of 212 Volunteers.

	Variance	
Official travel	($3,464.6)	(194.1%)

13. The variance of $3,464,600 under this heading is attributable primarily to increased travel of staff within the Mission area, in particular to the eastern part of

the Democratic Republic of the Congo in connection with intensive and unforeseen political consultations and negotiations and conflict resolution initiatives owing to the accelerated pace of the reconciliation and transition process. Additional requirements were also due to administrative, logistical and technical support resulting from reconfiguration of the Mission's deployment in the country, the change of some sectors' boundaries and the opening of new logistic liaison offices in the neighbouring countries to support the emplacement of additional military contingents to Kindu and the Ituri region.

	Variance	
Facilities and infrastructure	$21,304.0	29.6%

14. The variance of $21,304,000 under this heading is attributable primarily to the delayed implementation of airfield infrastructure renovation and rehabilitation projects, acquisition of fewer prefabricated facilities owing to the delayed deployment of military contingents and non-acquisition of generators owing to available stocks and transfers from other missions. The savings were partially offset by the acquisition of containerized aviation fuel tanks in connection with the deployment of military and civilian personnel to the east of the country, where no aviation fuel storage and distribution infrastructure exists.

	Variance	
Ground transportation	($1,713.3)	(12.2%)

15. The variance of $1,713,300 under this heading is attributable primarily to increased consumption of diesel fuel in connection with the redeployment of the Mission's military and civilian personnel to the east of the country and emplacement of additional military contingents to Kindu, combined with the increase of the cost of fuel on the international market and the higher cost of fuel deliveries to the eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

	Variance	
Air transportation	$38,779.6	25.0%

16. The variance of $38,779,600 under this heading is attributable primarily to the delayed deployment of commercially contracted aircraft and military helicopters resulting in lower fleet rental and operating costs. While budgetary provision was made for 46 aircraft (24 fixed-wing and 22 helicopters, including 5 military helicopters), as at 30 June 2003 the Mission operated a fleet of 36 aircraft (20 fixed-wing and 16 helicopters, with military helicopters deployed during the 2003/04 period).

	Variance	
Naval transportation	$1,251.5	32.1%

17. The variance of $1,251,500 under this heading is attributable to lower actual rental and operating costs incurred by a fleet of nine pusher vessels and nine speedboats operated on the Congo River.

	Variance	
Communications	$3,364.3	18.0%

18. The variance of $3,364,300 under this heading is attributable primarily to the reduced requirements for military contingents' self-sustainment costs owing to the delayed deployment of contingents.

	Variance	
Information technology	($1,052.7)	(20.9%)

19. The variance of $1,052,700 under this heading is attributable to the acquisition of spare parts and supplies in support of electronic data-processing equipment and expenditure representing the Mission's share of global information technology support and major applications development provided by United Nations Headquarters, offset in part by lower requirements for software licences and non-utilization of funds earmarked for contracting Internet services owing to the lack of local technically qualified providers.

	Variance	
Medical	$3,163.9	41.0%

20. The variance of $3,163,900 under this heading is attributable primarily to reduced requirements for military contingents' self-sustainment costs owing to the delayed deployment of contingents and lower actual cost of medical services resulting from fewer than anticipated cases of hospitalization of the Mission's military personnel.

	Variance	
Special equipment	$1,286.5	44.8%

21. The variance of $1,286,500 under this heading is attributable primarily to reduced requirements for military contingents' self-sustainment costs owing to the delayed deployment of contingents.

	Variance	
Other supplies, services and equipment	$2,642.6	19.1%

22. The variance of $2,642,600 is primarily attributable to non-utilization of a provision made under this heading for the acquisition of other equipment. Costs

incurred by the Mission for the purchase of equipment (e.g. scales, air compressors, strapping equipment, pneumatic cutters) have been reflected under the facilities and infrastructure class of expenditure. The overall savings were partially offset by higher actual bank fees and charges and the recording in the Mission's accounts of a loss on exchange resulting from the fluctuation of the value of convertible currencies compared to the United Nations operational exchange rates.

	Variance	
Quick impact projects	($100.0)	—

23. The variance of $100,000 under this heading is attributable to requirements for funding quick impact projects: workshop on the National Committee for Human Rights; rehabilitation of two classrooms in Lubero, the Penda/Molenge bridge in Gbadolite, the Lubuye bridge in Kalemie and the road segment in Butembo; initiating of small-scale cattle breeding projects in Bukavu; and the creation of a resource centre for human rights in Kananga.

V. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly

24. **The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of MONUC are:**

(a) **To decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $101,981,500 with respect to the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003;**

(b) **To decide on the treatment of other income for the period ended 30 June 2003, amounting to $31,456,000 from interest income ($6,547,000), other/miscellaneous income ($2,464,000) and savings on or cancellation of prior-period obligations ($22,581,000), offset by prior-period adjustments ($136,000).**

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Human rights questions

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 16 January 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you, enclosed herewith, the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the denial of visas to Olga Salanueva Arango and Adriana Pérez Oconor, spouses of René González Sehwerert and Gerardo Hernández Nordelo.

Such repeated conduct by the Government of the United States of America constitutes a systematic and flagrant violation of the human rights of René González Sehwerert and Gerardo Hernández Nordelo and their relatives.

I have the honour to request that you circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 117 and 156.

(*Signed*) Orlando **Requeijo Gual**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

04-21214 (E) 220104 220104

Annex to the letter dated 16 January 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 23 December 2003, the United States Interests Section in Havana delivered to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a diplomatic note returning the passports and visa applications of Olga Salanueva Arango and Adriana Pérez Oconor, spouses of René González Sehwerert and Gerardo Hernández Nordelo. The note stated that such applications would no longer be accepted through the offices of the Ministry and that henceforth the two comrades would have to submit their applications in person.

The new visa request had been made on 7 December 2003, after the United States Interests Section had advised, in mid-November, that its authorities had again decided to deny visas to the two comrades.

What excuse was used by the United States Government to put up these new obstacles and refuse to accept that the visas of Olga and Adriana had been requested through the usual offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

With astounding cynicism, United States officials argued that the statements made by both Olga and Adriana against the constant denial of their visa requests and in defence of their spouses made them think that the reasons why they wanted to travel to the United States were "no longer humanitarian", because they had become actively involved in a "political campaign" against the United States Government.

It is impossible to imagine a greater absurdity.

Actions such as these prove how relentless the United States authorities have been in denying visas to Olga and Adriana on three occasions during the past two years and, in fact, limiting the elemental right to maintain relationships with their spouses, even under the harsh conditions imposed by their unjust and illegal confinement in United States jails.

With this new decision, the United States Government is continuing to violate the human rights of René, Gerardo and their relatives. It is vainly seeking, through actions of unfettered cruelty, to punish the gallantry shown by our five comrades and their families throughout this whole rigged process.

Olga and Adriana have the right both to demand justice for their spouses and to visit them. Any denial constitutes a violation of international law and also of United States laws.

This decision by the United States authorities violates their international obligations as contained in the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment; and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, among others.

The United States Government has sought to justify these denials with the ridiculous argument that Olga and Adriana "constitute a threat to the national security of the United States".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has continually requested the United States authorities to reconsider these arbitrary denials and comply with their international obligations by allowing Olga and Adriana to exercise the inalienable right to visit their spouses and little Ivette to see her father.

Furthermore, the relatives who have been able to visit our Five Heroes have had to wait months to receive their visas and, as a result, our comrades have not received visits from their families for long periods.

At this time, several relatives of our comrades are still waiting for their visas, although they were requested from the United States Interests Section in August and September 2003. The time that has elapsed is already much longer than the eight weeks required, according to the United States authorities, to process visas for travel to the United States.

Moreover, in violation of the obligations and duties set out in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, the Department of State has continued to place obstacles in the way of Cuban consular officials complying with their duty and their right to provide consular assistance to these Cuban citizens. On two occasions they even went so far as to deny travel permits to our officials for consular visits to René González Sehwerert and Gerardo Hernández Nordelo during 2003. Everything indicates that in 2004 the pressure will be stepped up and the obstacles will increase.

In addition, the Department of State has begun to question, hedge and deny the possibility for officials of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington to accompany the relatives of our Five Heroes during their visits to the United States.

The relatives have to travel long distances to reach the places where their loved ones are imprisoned and to stay in alien environments during their visits. They deserve all necessary support, out of an elemental sense of humanity. And it is precisely this support which the United States authorities are questioning and blocking.

A few examples will suffice:

- On 17 June 2003, the Department of State informed the Interests Section that it would not authorize the travel of a Cuban official during the entire stay in Colorado of Antonio Guerrero's mother and son, and that he had to return to Washington on the days when there were no prison visits.
- On 27 July and 6 August, a similar decision was conveyed with regard to the official who was supposed to accompany Ramón Labañino's family to Beaumont, Texas and Fernando González's family to Wisconsin.
- On 8 August, an official in the Cuban Interests Section was denied a permit to accompany René González's daughter on her road journey from Miami, Florida to Edgefield, South Carolina.
- On 17 December, a Cuban diplomat who was supposed to accompany relatives of Gerardo Hernández to Lompoc, California was denied a travel permit.

It is clear that the United States authorities are seeking, in violation of international law, to intensify their actions to prevent or block consular access to our Five Heroes and support for their relatives. They are seeking to punish the example of heroism and patriotism which radiates from them in an obvious attempt to satisfy the most irrational whims of the Cuban mafia in Miami.

Cuba demands that the United States Government put an end to the attacks and hostility against our Five Heroes and their relatives, stop the manoeuvres with regard to the legitimate rights of our comrades, and comply strictly with its international, legal and moral responsibilities.

Havana, 13 January 2004

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Environment and sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Letter dated 16 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Seychelles to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the final report of the 2nd Small Island Developing States of the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas (AIMS) Regional Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Mahé, Seychelles, from 8 to 10 January 2004 (see annex).

On behalf of the participating small island developing States, and at their request, I ask that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 94 (d).

I believe that this will be a substantial contribution to the success of the Interregional Meeting to be held in the Bahamas and the International Meeting to be held in Mauritius.

(*Signed*) Claude **Morel**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

04-21345 (E) 270104

Annex to the letter dated 16 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Seychelles to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Report of the 2nd AIMS REGIONAL MEETING to review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

8-10 January 2004, Mahe, Seychelles

Introduction

1. The 2nd AIMS Regional Meeting for the Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was held at Mahe, Seychelles 8-10 January 2004.

2. The meeting was organised by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), with the assistance of the European Union (EU) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The meeting was hosted by the Government of Seychelles.

3. The meeting was opened by the Seychelles Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jeremie Bonnelame. A message from the Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Commission (COI) was delivered by Mr. Raj Mohabeer. A keynote address was delivered by the Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), His Excellency Ambassador Jagdish Koonjul, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations.

4. The following AIMS Island Countries were represented: Cape Verde, Comoros, Cyprus, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles. Countries unable to attend the meeting were: Guinea Bissau, Maldives, Malta, and Singapore.

5. The following international, regional and national organisations were represented: AOSIS, UNDP, IOC, Seychelles National Commission of UNESCO, Center for Documentation, Research and Training on the South West Indian Ocean (CEDREFI) and Liaison Unit for Non-governmental Organisations in Seychelles (LUNGOS), Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

6. Participants noted with regret the considerable damage caused by the cyclone that hit Samoa and Niue, recently. The meeting expressed its full support to the Governments and the peoples of Samoa and Niue at this difficult moment.

7. The meeting learnt with deep sorrow the sudden demise of the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica and invited the Chairman of AOSIS to convey to the Government of Dominica and the bereaved family the heartfelt sympathy of the AIMS region.

8. H.E. Ambassador Claude Morel of Seychelles was elected chair of the meeting. Mauritius was designated as rapporteur with Seychelles and Cape Verde appointed as 'friends of the rapporteur'.

9. The delegates present were briefed on the outcome of the Praia AIMS Meeting held in Cape Verde 1-5th September 2003 by the Cape Verde Delegation.

10. The meeting was informed that the National Report for the Seychelles was in its final stages of preparation and adoption. Comoros informed the meeting that the country's National Report was still in the drafting stages. The document had been drafted with stakeholder participation. The report should be ready for the Bahamas meeting. Concerning Sao Tome and Principe, the meeting was informed that up to now, the country has not received the financial assistance allocated for the elaboration of the national assessment report, and this has created difficulties for the process. The meeting was assured that the report would be ready for the Bahamas meeting.

11. With regards to Sao Tome & Principe, the Chairman of AOSIS informed that his office would follow up with UNEP on the issue of financial assistance for completion of their country's National Report.

12. The Mauritian delegation informed that the National Report has been finalised, approved by government and already forwarded to UNDESA. The report was completed with wide stakeholder participation.

13. The meeting was informed that the National Report of Cape Verde was being updated with the input of latest data. The meeting noted that Cape Verde would be hosting a meeting in relation to the NEPAD initiative for the eight African island states for Ministers of Foreign Affairs in mid January 2004.

14. The delegate from Cyprus reassured the meeting that Cyprus would be participating in the meetings in Bahamas and Mauritius, and will remain a member of AOSIS. Cyprus expressed its willingness to be an advocate for SIDS within the EU.

15. The representative of IOC made a presentation on the history, structure and activities of the IOC, and informed the meeting that the IOC Council of Ministers had endorsed the proposal for IOC to become the interim coordinating mechanism for the AIMS Region. Proposals were made as to the role of the IOC as the coordinating mechanism of the AIMS group until the international meeting in Mauritius.

16. The IOC was assigned to prepare a synthesis report on the basis of available National Assessment Reports ahead of the Bahamas meeting.

17. The meeting also acknowledged the lack of resources at the IOC, and the necessity to further strengthen all IOC resources to be able to coordinate the AIMS group through the BPOA process.

18. A discussion on a strategy for the AIMS group took place where proposals for the elements of such a strategy were made. A working group was set up to develop the strategy.

19. During discussions on new and emerging issues, the following presentations were made:

- Invasive species by Mr Rolph Payet of the Seychelles
- Trade Issues by Mr. Jean-Michel Salmon, Resource Person
- HIV/AIDS by Mr Raj Mohabeer of IOC

- Civil society and Youth by Mr Pynee Chellapermal of Centre for Documentation, Research and Training on the South West Indian Ocean (CEDREFI)
- Graduation of SIDS LDCs by Mr. Jose Silva of Cape Verde.

20. The meeting expressed great concern regarding graduation of SIDS which are LDCs and affirmed that a smooth transition should be made possible for graduating countries. At present neither conditions nor guarantees needed for secure transition exists. Graduation should not be envisaged unless a country has made sustainable progress and is capable of benefiting from the new opportunities offered by economic globalisation. The lack of certainty in the situation that a newly graduated country would face implies that a lot more discussion needs to take place prior to any graduation, so as to ensure that the graduation does not disrupt national development or hamper economic growth.

21. The meeting was informed of the side meeting planned at the IM Meeting on civil society, a well as the set up of a regional steering committee. A regional steering committee has been set up for the NGOs to steer the BPOA+10 processes. A Youth Forum may be organised with the support of UNESCO

22. The representative of Mauritius made a presentation on the arrangements for the IM and informed of the existence of the web site containing all relevant details for the IM at www.sidsmauritius2004.mu

23. The plenary was divided into three working groups covering the 14 priority areas including new emerging issues with the task of updating the Praia Report so as to produce the finalised AIMS Regional Position.

24. The plenary at its final session adopted the AIMS regional position paper, attached to this report (annex 1), as well the Mahe Strategy (annex 2). The meeting requested the Government of Seychelles to ensure that this report and its annexes are circulated as an official UN document.

25. The delegates expressed their appreciation for the fine hospitality and working arrangements provided for the meeting by the people and Government of the Seychelles.

26. The meeting was closed by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr Ronny Jumeau.

Annex 1

AIMS Regional Position Paper

Preamble

The AIMS Regional Meeting for the Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPOA) was held in Praia, Cape Verde 1-5 September 2003. A second meeting was organized in Seychelles, from 8 to 10 January 2004 to finalise this position paper.

Both meetings endorsed the following structure, which would include separate reporting on all the chapters of the BPOA, including new and emerging issues.

The draft AIMS regional position will constitute an important document and a basis for the AOSIS negotiating stance at the upcoming Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting in the Bahamas in January 2004.

Note: New Text is in bold.; Praia numbering is now in brackets.

Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise

1 (18.) The development of climate change action plans and the identification of most vulnerable sites have continued in the region, with some countries progressing to implementation measures, in particular adaptation. All countries in the region have submitted their initial national communications to the UN FCCC. In view of the increasing risk of the adverse effects of climate change on the AIMS region, the meeting underscored the added urgency for the international community to ratify and fully implement the Kyoto Protocol and the need to take further action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support adaptation measures in SIDS.

2 (18 bis) In view of their small size but large maritime zones, AIMS SIDS need proper climate observation systems to substantiate local changes in the climate and take adaptive measures. There is a need to strengthen the existing observation and monitoring network in the AIMS region. Observational data should be combined with traditional knowledge and technology transfer to provide for the adoption of better adaptation strategies and action.

Natural and Environmental Disasters

3 (19.) Some countries have established national early warning systems and disaster mitigation plans, including national and regional oil spill contingency plans. However, national capacity is unlikely to be able to cope with the growing frequency of extreme weather events, and the costs associated with rehabilitation, in spite of the existence of special funds in some countries. In this regard the meeting called for further international assistance in the development of national disaster mitigation preparedness capacity and the creation of appropriate insurance and re-insurance schemes for SIDS.

Management of Wastes

4 (20.) While some countries have made significant progress in both planning and implementation of waste management policies and programs, most countries have serious difficulties in terms of financial and technical capacity in dealing with

waste management issues. This is further compounded by the lack of available space for storage and disposal. There is a need for the introduction of technology for waste management strategies based on waste minimization, recycling and reuse, appropriate to the scale of SIDS. The integration of waste management with the energy sector and the water and sanitation sector could provide significant cost savings in SIDS, while also conserving scarce natural resources and producing clean energy. The meeting called for international support **to identify low cost waste management system while providing additional financial support** for the development and implementation of technologies **that could be appropriately adapted in SIDS.**

Coastal and Marine Resources

5 (21.) All SIDS in the region have ratified the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea and UNEP regional seas conventions and the action plans in their sub-regions. The fisheries sector continues to be a significant foreign income earner for many of the AIMS SIDS. Several of these countries have also ratified the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement. However, the meeting highlighted that implementation continues to be impeded by financial constraints and a lack of capacity. It also expressed concern regarding the continuing challenges inherent in existing international legislative frameworks and mechanisms. Specific concerns were raised regarding Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing, and the monitoring and surveillance of the countries' respective EEZs, the area within their jurisdiction the management of which SIDS continue to seek regional and international cooperation, in accordance with the UNCLOS. The meeting also recorded difficulties encountered in relation to the monitoring and assessment of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. In this connection existing regional fisheries management mechanisms in the AIMS region were recommended to be strengthened, and developed where appropriate, to support AIMS SIDS in their efforts to conserve and manage this valuable resource. The meeting expressed the need for further assistance from international community in this endeavor and also in the development and implementation of surveillance and monitoring systems, and with the necessary tools to analyze and assess the status of fish stocks.

6 (22.) **The development and implementation of integrated coastal zone management (ICZM), including policies and regulations have been identified as a priority.** In this respect, the need to establish and strengthen appropriate national regulatory enforcement authorities was **also** highlighted. Important aspects of ICZM identified included addressing beach erosion, sand mining and coral reef conservation and protection, so vital to the survival of the islands. A further challenge is the control of land-based sources of pollution, which must be integrated into the coastal zone management policies.

7 **(22 bis) Coral Reefs are at the centre of economic development in the majority of SIDS, and even today many SIDS inhabitants depend upon reef resources for basic livelihood. However, large areas of coral reefs are threatened in SIDS due to local anthropogenic impacts and changes in the global climate, including mass coral bleaching. Consequently, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) adopted a resolution for consideration by SIDS in the review of the BPOA+10. The resolution calls upon SIDS to address as a priority the impacts of coastal development, coastal tourism, intensive and destructive fishing practices, pollution, as well as unreported and illegal trade**

in corals on the future health of coral reefs. In collaboration with other states and making use of regional mechanisms, SIDS can put in place integrated policies, management approaches, such as marine protected areas, and develop national capacity to monitor, conserve and sustainably manage coral reefs and associated ecosystems. SIDS countries also call upon the international community to continue to financially support regional monitoring efforts, the strengthening of marine protected areas, and address the issue of coping with the impacts of mass coral reef bleaching.

Freshwater Resources

8 (23.) All AIMS SIDS continue to face water management challenges, caused in part by deficiencies in water availability, water catchment and storage, and leakage in the delivery system. Improved use of rainwater harvesting, water conservation and the introduction of innovative technologies to reclaim water has reduced this deficiency. However, increased supply will not be sufficient to address the water problems of the AIMS SIDS unless appropriate institutional strengthening and management techniques are introduced and implemented. It was noted that in certain SIDS in the region these measures were being implemented, through national water management plans.

9 (24.) It was recorded that many of the AIMS SIDS suffer from acute water problems, land degradation and desertification. In this regard it was also noted that many AIMS SIDS have achieved progress in their implementation of the main UNCED conventions. Nonetheless, there have been too few presentations of proposal for funding under the UNCCD and CBD by some AIMS SIDS. It is important for SIDS to maximize their access to available resources under the UNCCD and CBD. Noting the designation of the GEF as a financial Mechanism of the UNCCD, AIM SIDS welcome the opportunity to access GEF financial and technical resources to develop and implement projects to address land degradation, while calling for additional resources to enable them to complete their National Action Programmes (NAP). It was also noted that there was need for an integrated approach toward addressing the vulnerabilities of SIDS. The meeting therefore called for integrated action to combat desertification, climate change and other global environmental crises. **In this context the meeting notes with concern the loss of agricultural crops at the profit of other economic activities and which contribute to land degradation.**

Land Resources

10 (25.) In many SIDS there is a need for land-use databases, to assist in sustainable development planning. Some AIMS SIDS have already developed these in relation to their national development strategies but most are impeded by a lack of financial and technical resources, and by inadequate training and access to remote sensing data. The challenge of reconciling competing land-use interests will require the integration of land-use priorities and policies in national development planning. **It is therefore recommended that Geographical Information Systems, including Land Information Systems, be introduced in AIMS SIDS through training programs, technology transfer and technical assistance.**

11 (26.) In many AIMS SIDS poor agricultural practices and weak watershed management, **further compounded by economic pressure,** have led to serious land

degradation, which has also impacted on **the wetlands**, coastal zones and coral reefs. The meeting recommended that appropriate mechanisms be established at the national and regional levels to strengthen local capacities for improving watershed management and agricultural practices, including fertilizer application and pest management, appropriate to SIDS circumstances.

Energy Resources

12 (27.) Energy costs severely impact the economic and social circumstances of the AIMS SIDS and impede their development efforts. The high cost of dependence on fossil fuel has motivated AIMS SIDS to develop alternate sources of energy, and to pursue energy efficiency and conservation measures. Some SIDS have made innovative use of local energy sources, such as agricultural by-products and hydropower sources, and experimental use of solar and wind power is continuing. Many AIMS SIDS have conducted studies on their renewable energy potential. However, the challenge to fully utilize natural endowments of renewable energy sources will require further exploration in areas such as ocean thermal energy conversion technologies, and will require investment, technology transfer and capacity building appropriate to SIDS. There is a need for the development of a SIDS energy agenda, and for the establishment and or strengthening of regional institutions to conduct research and to provide technical support. In this respect the establishment of a dedicated funding mechanism for the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency in SIDS is imperative, in particular in order to overcome the relatively high establishment costs of renewable energy projects. The meeting identified a key role for the regional development banks, in particular as regards support for technology transfer.

Tourism Resources

13 (28.) Tourism is an important contributor to economic growth in SIDS. Yet the meeting recognised that the sector is open to many exogenous shocks. It also recognised that the tourism sector places demands on other sectors of the economy, such as transportation and communication, infrastructure and the employment market. Many AIMS SIDS have developed national sustainable tourism development plans. There is a continuing challenge to establish the appropriate balance between tourism development and that of other sectors of the economy, while protecting carrying capacity. SIDS have established limits to the scope of further tourism development in view of the importance of economic diversification and stability. Sustainable tourism policy development and implementation efforts should be enhanced, and may require technical and financial support from the development partners, such as the provision of support to training institutions.

14 (29.) It is recognized that there is great potential for the development of ecotourism in SIDS. Ecotourism can assist SIDS in protecting and conserving natural resources and biodiversity, and can contribute to the implementation of national biodiversity action plans. Ecotourism should form an integral part of national tourism development plans. The meeting therefore concluded that it is imperative that AIMS SIDS be assisted in developing the management tools and mechanisms appropriate to their national circumstances, and that ecotourism in SIDS be given the necessary international recognition for its contribution. Any action plans on ecotourism at the international level must give special recognition to the circumstances and challenges of SIDS.

15 (31.) The meeting highlighted the unique cultures of the AIMS region which present opportunities for cultural tourism. As this is mostly an untapped source, this should also be incorporated in the national tourism development plans.

Biodiversity Resources

16 (32 revised) AIMS SIDS are important centers of evolution with high species diversity and endemism; however due to the small size, isolation and fragility of island ecosystems, their biodiversity is amongst the most threatened in the world. All AIMS SIDS have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity, initiated national biodiversity strategic action plans, and developed protected areas including marine ones. Many AIMS SIDS also invest substantially more financial and other resources in environmental management.. Nevertheless, because of the constraints typical of SIDS in general, AIMS SIDS are in vital need of further technical and financial assistance to implement the national and sub-regional biodiversity conservation programs, including through establishment of Biodiversity Trust Funds.

17 (32 bis) The importance and fragility of biodiversity in AIMS SIDS needs to be better understood. Challenges remain in the development of capacity and in public education and awareness, to ensure that there is widest appreciation of the importance of conservation and sustainable managemen' of biodiversity. Appropriate protocols and regulations must also be established to ensure that bio-piracy is discouraged and prevented, and that research carried out in the AIMS region is made available for the benefit of the communities. Further research facilities in taxonomy should be established nationally and/or regionally with the support of the international community.

18 (33 new) Invasive alien species have been identified as one of the most important threats to AIMS SIDS biodiversity. It is fast becoming a major agent of environmental and landscape changes and with immense and increasingly detrimental effects. AIMS SIDS commit themselves to increasing their efforts to minimize the impact of invasive alien species at community, national and regional levels by prevention, containment and mitigation measures and recognize the need to expand and strengthen habitat programmes in key conservation areas. The ecosystem approach has to be taken into account in any programmes, especially to foster rehabilitation and restoration projects.

19 (new) Ballast water from ships is a major threat to both marine and terrestrial biodiversity. In this context the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) is urged to expedite the process towards the elaboration and conclusion of a Convention on Ballast Water.

National Institutions and Administrative Capacity

20 (33.) The meeting recorded the commitment of AIMS SIDS to developing institutional capacity through the adoption of appropriate national policies and legislation. It was acknowledged that for the most part, institutional capacity in most AIMS SIDS is weak, and this impacts on their ability to implement international agreements, and on their ability to influence the development of those agreements. This was found a significant challenge, particularly as regards effective participation in deliberations dealing with **international and multilateral organizations including the United Nations Organization, the World Trade Organization, in**

the development of international rules and agreements, and on the potential impact of their implementation in SIDS. The meeting underscored the importance of further support from the international community for capacity building in the AIMS region. In order to fulfill their commitments in this regard delegations welcomed the initiative by UN DESA and **University of West Indies-Centre for Environment and Development** (UWICED) to develop a process for strengthening the negotiating skills of SIDS prior to the International Meeting in Mauritius.

Regional Institutions and Technical Cooperation

21 (34.) Regional cooperation among SIDS has been recognized as an important tool for the promotion of sustainable development. However, for most AIMS SIDS this cooperation has been limited, mainly because of geographic dispersion and lack of capacity in the region. The meeting decided that there was a need for a regional support mechanism. **In this context, the meeting welcomed the decision of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) to act as an interim regional mechanism with a view to facilitate the coordination of the** preparatory process leading up to the International Meeting in Mauritius. The meeting also recognized that, in order for the IOC to carry out the tasks, it was essential that it be strengthened. The meeting therefore called on international community to assist with financial resources in this regard. It was also agreed that ongoing work toward identifying and evaluating existing capacities for the ultimate establishment of a dedicated regional mechanism should continue.

Transport and Communication

22 (36.) Transport and communication are continuing preoccupations for the AIMS region, particularly for archipelagic SIDS. Many AIMS SIDS face constraints in other productive sectors due to inadequate international and domestic transport facilities and services. The meeting acknowledged the effort being made to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is maintained and expanded. **In this context, the development partners are encouraged to provide the necessary support, both financial and technical, for the development and management of the airports and ports in SIDS.**

23 (36 bis.) In the field of ICT many AIMS SIDS have committed to fully incorporate these technologies in the productive infrastructure of their economies and for government services. Nevertheless there remain serious gaps in coverage and accessibility for the general population. The meeting therefore urged the international community to support the AIMS SIDS in this area.

24 (37.) SIDSNet was recognized for the valuable service it has provided. The meeting however acknowledged that it requires much strengthening and further enhancement, in particularly as regards development of the French language portal. It also concluded that the AIMS SIDS would provide their recommendations for improving the services of SIDSNet, and agreed to make greater effort at regularly updating their national information disseminated through SIDSNet. It was also recommended that there be closer cooperation between SIDSNet and the UNESCO initiative Small Island Voice, to ensure a comprehensive and coherent approach to information gathering and dissemination on SIDS issues.

Science and Technology

25 (38.) The Meeting underscored the importance of science and technology development to the pursuit of an effective sustainable development strategy, **particularly in SIDS**. It noted that some AIMS SIDS have been able to strengthen their science and technology base of their economy. The need for improved science and technology research, technology transfer appropriate for SIDS was **duly recognized**. This was considered an area in which cooperation among the AIMS SIDS could be of great benefit. The experience of other SIDS regions was also considered relevant **and in this context the networking and sharing of information between SIDS should be encouraged.**

26 (35.) The establishment of the Singapore Environment Institute was acknowledged as a newly created structured mechanism for inter-SIDS cooperation that did not exist prior to the Barbados Conference. The SEI **reiterated** its commitment to such cooperation, and invited partnerships with supporting organizations and countries to further develop this initiative. The meeting welcomed this important initiative from the Singapore Government, and encouraged all SIDS to take full advantage of this opportunity, inviting collaboration with the international community. **The meeting called for the establishment and strengthening of Regional centers in the areas of research, training, development of endogenous technology, and provision of legal and technical advice, to facilitate the sustainable development of AIMS SIDS.**

Human Resource Development

27 (39.) Many AIMS SIDS have taken steps to overcome human resource constraints, through the improvement of education and training. A major priority for the AIMS SIDS is the establishment of a sound foundation for human resource development, appropriate to local circumstances and requirements. **This foundation requires appropriate educational programmes at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels, both in the formal and informal sectors, including distance learning.** Some AIMS SIDS have improved their teacher to student ratios as well as the levels of school attendance. Inadequate financial resources for investment in education remain a significant challenge to improving literacy levels and **Human Resources Development (HRD).** Another major challenge highlighted was the difficulty of retaining skilled personnel in the region. The meeting agreed that greater efforts will be required to ensure that adequate opportunities are created to encourage the retention of indigenous skilled personnel. It also considered that the establishment of a SIDS roster of experts or skills bank could assist in the retention of skilled personnel. In this regard, the international community was encouraged to support such efforts through the provision of financial and technical resources. The meeting also called on the international community to utilize SIDS expertise in project implementation, particularly for SIDS related projects. **Meanwhile, AIMS SIDS are encouraged to make full use of expertise available in the region.**

New and Emerging Issues

Trade

28. (42) The meeting recognized that the International Meeting presented yet another opportunity for SIDS to advocate special and differential treatment (SDT)

on grounds of structural disadvantages and vulnerabilities. **In this respect this meeting is fully supportive of efforts developed through the Working Group on Small Economies within the WTO system. Three modalities of SDT were deemed particularly important to AIMS SIDS:**

1. **the preservation of SIDS preferential market access in developed countries (tariff-rate quotas and preferential tariffs), and in case of preferences erosion some appropriate arrangements including financial compensatory mechanisms should be established.**

2. **SIDS should be given ample flexibility in terms of liberalization speed as well as product and service coverage in order both to support local activities in the context of strong competitive natural disadvantages, and to contribute to the consolidation of budgetary resources. This also applies to the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) negotiations with the EU**

3. **Some AIMS SIDS are not member of the WTO and many of those which are, have no representation in Geneva. In view of the very limited human and financial capacity in trade negotiations and their bargaining power limited by the small size of their own markets, the accession process should be made easier and technical assistance on trade and capacity building should be increased in their favour.**

29 (30.) The meeting emphasized the need to enhance the stability and resilience of the AIMS SIDS through even deeper efforts towards economic diversification and integrated planning. To this end the AIMS SIDS highlighted the scope for further development of marine resources, the expansion of tourism, ICT and other service sectors, and the exploration of the potential of cultural enterprise.

Security and Terrorism

30 (40.) The meeting recognized security in all its aspects as an issue of increasing importance for the AIMS region. Recent events have highlighted the vulnerability of the most productive sectors of the region's economies. This has been exacerbated by the international obligations mandated to address these new security concerns. All countries have obligations under the **UN Security Council Resolution 1373 and other relevant resolutions.** The meeting noted that these obligations created particular difficulties for all SIDS, particularly those with large coastal areas and the archipelagic SIDS.

31 (43.) The meeting affirmed that the case regarding the economic and environmental vulnerability of SIDS has been made decisively. It was agreed that there is need to identify and develop policies that build SIDS' resilience, thereby redressing vulnerability comprehensively. This includes the need to diversify economies and address security concerns.

Governance

32 (44.) The AIMS SIDS reaffirmed their commitment to good governance as a means for achieving sustainable development and for building resilience. **AIMS SIDS are encouraged to sign and ratify the UN Convention Against Corruption that was recently opened for signature in Merida, Mexico.**

33 (45.) It was recognized that while the primary responsibility for sustainable development rests with the national authorities of SIDS, the BPOA stresses the need for international partnership and support. The AIMS SIDS therefore called for fulfillment of international commitment to ensure that the BPOA is fully implemented. This will require support for:

- Public awareness programs on sustainable development;
- Integration of sustainable development principles in all aspects of national development strategies;
- Integrated decision making for sustainable development;
- Improvement of date collection systems to monitor progress in sustainable development;
- Mobilization of resources;
- Coordination mechanisms for delivery on stated goals; and
- Coherent coordinated implementation of MEASs on sustainable development.

The meeting called for the strengthening of international support structures that assist SIDS in:

- Forging strategic alliances to overcome size constraints;
- Capacity-building;
- Developing competitiveness strategies;
- Promoting stability in the macroeconomic environment;
- Diversification;
- Reducing dependence on imported energy;
- Developing capacity in the management of marine resources;
- The use of information technology;
- Education;
- Re-insurance schemes for SIDS;
- Tapping expertise from migrant overseas communities; and
- SIDS-SIDS cooperation.

Funding Mechanisms

34 (46.) The meeting acknowledged that SIDS have continuing difficulties with the disbursement procedures relating to multilateral assistance. In addition the reporting requirements of major funding **agencies** can be quite onerous for AIMS SIDS. The meeting called for the streamlining of procedures to take account of the special situation of SIDS.

35 (47.) The meeting heard three presentations on Type II Partnerships in the AIMS region (SIDS UNIT, Singapore Environment Institute, University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development). However, it was noted that there was not a significant number of such initiatives developed in the region. As

partnership was also an important means of implementation of sustainable development programmes, the meeting urged that more such initiatives be developed and invited potential partners to consider projects in the AIMS region.

Civil Society participation and partnerships

36 (New) Since Barbados, civil society in many AIMS SIDS has developed experience and capacity in key areas, such as biodiversity, youth, education and health. Recent international fora, including the WSSD and World Parks Congress , highlighted the necessity to involve civil society in sustainable development. Nevertheless, national governments have experienced difficulties and constraints in involving civil society at the level of policy development and implementation. AIMS SIDS commit themselves to creating enabling environments and to develop new partnership that will ensure the implementation of the Mauritius Plan of Action. AIMS SIDS call upon the international community to assist in this process.

HIV/AIDs

37 (41.) The emergence of highly communicable and vector borne diseases has impacted both the social and economic welfare of the AIMS SIDS. While the successful containment of these diseases has improved the resilience of SIDS, there is scope for further work on containment through the strengthening of health infrastructure and services, thereby strengthening resilience through integrated planning. In this regard the meeting underscored the need for the increased involvement of and cooperation **between** tertiary and research institutions **both in** SIDS **and the international community**.

Graduation

38 The meeting recalls the special importance to the economic vulnerability criterion in the methodology for reviewing the list of least developed countries, among which, all potential graduation cases are SIDS. **The trade and financial benefits derived from the status of the least developed countries (LDC's) are of key importance for these SIDS to tackle their specific constraints and structural difficulties in the pursuance of sustainable development.** The meeting held the strong view that the consideration of Cape Verde and Maldives for graduation should be made in this perspective.

Annex 2

Mahé Strategy

The AIMS group considers the Inter-Regional Meeting in the Bahamas as an important milestone on the road to Mauritius for the International Meeting. The AIMS group should therefore contribute fully and in a productive manner in the Bahamas meeting to ensure that the issues of critical importance of the group is fully addressed, and the desired outcome achieved. To this end the following strategy is formulated.

Aim

1. To provide a way for the AIMS group to take the Regional Position Paper forward.
2. To provide guidance on the coordination and negotiating arrangements for the AIMS group at the Bahamas meeting.
3. To indicate the Desired Outcomes arising from the Bahamas meeting for the AIMS group.

Priorities

The AIMS group reaffirms the priorities in the **AIMS Regional Position Paper**, as being ultimate expression of the groups position.

Furthermore, the AIMS group recognise the following as being vital for sustainable development in the AIMS region:

1. Good Governance (role of civil society, legislative frameworks, transparency, accountability, etc.)
2. Security (in all aspects)
3. Trade and Investment (investments to build resilience, alternatives to special and differential treatment – phasing out fund, compensation, flexible agreements)
4. Health (in all its aspects – services, prevention)
5. Enabling Environments at the National Level, particularly through integrated planning and policy development.
6. Sustainable Capacity Building
7. Financial Resources (information on existing resources, facilitating links between needs and resources, donor coordination) and monitoring of implementations
8. Partnerships (with donor countries, with other SIDS regions, etc.)
9. Information for Decision Making (SIDSNet, simplified reporting and metadata)
10. Education for sustainable development (cooperation with other SIDS regions and their tertiary institutions, curriculum development, teacher training)
11. Information and Communication Technology

Means of Implementation

The AIMS group lays strong emphasis on the **Means of Implementation** for the **Mauritius Outcomes** including the priorities listed above. This would entail *inter alia* political commitment from AIMS countries, effective national and regional implementation frameworks, integrated planning and policy development, concrete and visible international support, as well as monitoring and evaluation.

While sustainable development is acknowledged as a national responsibility, the BPOA also firmly establishes that this shall be done in partnership. Bearing in mind these national responsibilities, it is important for the AIMS countries to show in concrete terms what they are willing to commit to. Hence the strategy is a matter of substance as well as a matter of the specific approach (national actions coupled with regional support and international funding and expertise).

The AIMS group reaffirms that for the **Mauritius Outcomes** to have concrete benefits for SIDS, there must be a more effective and coordinated monitoring process, through existing institutions such as the CSD. Nevertheless, the effective operation of these institutions should be reviewed in terms of the Mauritius Outcomes.

Immediate Concerns

The meeting expresses great concern regarding graduation of Small island Developing States which are LDCs, and affirms that a smooth transition should be made possible to graduating countries. It will be necessary for all SIDS regions to work together with AOSIS in the further development of their views on the graduation process and the implications of graduation, and to present these at appropriate venues such as the CDP, ECOSOC as well as at the International Meeting. It would be of further benefit to the international debate if the requirement to hold international roundtables to discuss the specific situations of individual potentially graduating LDCs be carried out, in accordance with the recommendations of ECOSOC on the convening by the UN of roundtable meetings of development partners to examine the most desirable set of measures to ensure a smooth transition.

Coordination

All non-IOC AIMS countries have to designate focal points and communicate these to the IOC Secretariat.

A dedicated list-serv will be established in partnership with the **AOSIS SIDSNet** and **UNDESA** to ensure improved dissemination of information. It is important for this information to reach all stakeholders.

The **Indian Ocean Commission** will act as facilitator and secretariat for the AIMS group in the process leading up to Mauritius. This would entail the preparation of the synthesis report, distribution of relevant documents, coordination with other regional groups, liaison with the AOSIS chairmanship and UNDESA.

At the Bahamas meeting, the AIMS group shall meet as required for coordination purposes. The group will as appropriate designate specific coordinators on specific issues.

It is expected that at the earliest possible time, well ahead of the Mauritius Meeting, a formal regional cooperation mechanism should be established for the AIMS region. AIMS Ministers are encouraged to discuss political aspects relating to this mechanism at Bahamas, including seeking international support.

Desired Outcomes

1. Improved Means of Implementation
2. Donor coordination in the implementation of the BPOA to include all relevant international institutions
3. Dedicated international monitoring machinery
4. Strengthening of the UNDESA SIDS unit with a committed budget
5. Proposals for the Agenda for Mauritius
6. Firm political commitment by AIMS Ministers for the setting up of a regional mechanism for the Mauritius meeting and beyond.
7. Clear commitments of the donor community to the Mauritius meeting process
8. Improved coordination within the UN system

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General Assembly
Security Council

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21 January 2004

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General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda items 37 and 156

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Identical letters dated 21 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I wish to draw your attention to the latest violation of the Blue Line from Lebanese territory which serves as a grave threat to peace and stability in the area.

On Monday 19 January 2004, at approximately 4.40 p.m. (local time), Hizbullah terrorists perpetrated a fatal anti-tank missile strike from the Lebanese side of the Blue Line on an Israeli vehicle while it was operating to neutralize a roadside cluster of explosive charges planted by Hizbullah south of the Blue Line in Israeli territory. Sergeant Major Jan Rotzanski, 21, of Herzliya was killed and a second soldier was seriously wounded when the vehicle, an engineering unit used to disarm explosive charges, was hit in the western sector of the Israel-Lebanon border near Moshav Zarit. The entire incident was observed by a United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) observation post and immediately following the incident the UNIFIL commander met with an Israeli liaison officer and confirmed that the attack constituted a grave breach of the Blue Line by Hizbullah.

This is the most recent in a series of clusters planted by Hizbullah on the Israeli side of the Blue Line. This reprehensible tactic designed to target Israeli security personnel charged with patrolling the Blue Line and protecting Israeli residents in the North from terrorist infiltrations and attacks constitutes a blatant violation of international law and Security Council resolutions.

Monday's attempt to dismantle the cluster in the western sector of the Blue Line was preceded by extensive communications between the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and UNIFIL. At the time the cluster was first located, on 4 January 2004, the IDF notified UNIFIL, as it had in the past, and UNIFIL inspectors joined IDF patrols to confirm the existence of the cluster although UNIFIL did not take steps to disarm it. In turn, the IDF informed UNIFIL that it intended to take defensive actions to neutralize the cluster, which threatened to endanger civilian life and security personnel in the area. Hizbullah's attack on the vehicle constitutes yet

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another unprovoked and illegal terrorist act directed at personnel involved in an entirely defensive operation.

Since Israel's complete withdrawal from Lebanon in May 2000, in full and confirmed compliance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978), Hizbullah attacks have aimed to terrorize civilian populations in northern Israel and provoke an escalation of hostilities along the Blue Line. Since Israel's withdrawal, Hizbollah terrorists have killed 16 Israeli citizens and wounded over 60 others in over 170 separate incidents involving terrorist infiltrations, Katyusha rockets, mortar shells, anti-tank missiles and small arms fire.

Rather than acting to fulfil its international obligations, the Government of Lebanon has effectively relinquished control of South Lebanon to Hizbullah, a terrorist organization with a global network of operatives that has supported and perpetrated countless terrorist actions, both in the Middle East and beyond. The recent incidents testify, yet again, to the fact that were Lebanon to simply meet the obligations required of all States to prevent their territory from serving as a base for terrorist attacks, tensions in the area would be immeasurably defused and Israeli measures of self-defence would be unnecessary.

Hizbullah attacks are further enabled by the direct funding and complicity of the Syrian and Iranian Governments, which are dually responsible for the escalation of violence on Israel's border with Lebanon and for the continuing instability in the area.

In the light of the impending renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, and the preparation of the upcoming report of the Secretary-General on UNIFIL, it is incumbent upon the international community and the United Nations to expressly condemn this latest Hizbullah attack and make it clear to Lebanon that it will not tolerate continued support for illegal terrorist attacks. The international community must demand nothing less than for Lebanon to live up to its obligations under international law and Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 425 (1978), 426 (1978), 1310 (2000), 1337 (2001) and 1373 (2001), so as to restore peace and security in the area and to assume effective control over its territory and to prevent acts of terrorism like any responsible State.

How many more casualties will Hizbullah terrorism, Lebanese intransigence and Syrian and Iranian sponsorship have to exact before Lebanese compliance with Security Council resolutions and international law will be assured without compromise?

This letter is a follow-up to previous letters concerning the dangerous situation in South Lebanon caused by the illegal attacks perpetrated by Hizbollah across the Blue Line.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 156 and 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/58/688

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 January 2004

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 124
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 19 January 2004 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

1. At present 28 Member States are in arrears under the terms of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations, which states as follows:

> "A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member."

2. The minimum payments necessary to reduce the amounts owed by those Member States on their contributions so that they remain below the gross amount assessed for the preceding two full years (2002 and 2003) are as follows:

Member State	*Minimum payment (United States dollars)*
Afghanistan	41 500
Antigua and Barbuda	33 200
Belarus	672 500
Benin	14 400
Cape Verde	3 100
Central African Republic	321 700[a]
Chad	10 030
Comoros	745 800[a]
Georgia	6 866 500[a]
Guinea-Bissau	460 900[a]
Iraq	14 623 200

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Member State	*Minimum payment (United States dollars)*
Kenya	119 000
Lebanon	130 500
Liberia	1 113 100
Malawi	7 900
Mauritania	11 400
Niger	367 000[a]
Paraguay	24 400
Republic of Moldova	1 752 000[a]
Sao Tome and Principe	564 100[a]
Solomon Islands	13 100
Somalia	992 500[a]
Suriname	9 400
Tajikistan	1 441 900[a]
Uganda	56 600
Ukraine	6 775 700
Vanuatu	500
Venezuela	3 185 600

[a] In its resolution 58/1 of 16 October 2003, the General Assembly decided that Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, the Niger, the Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia and Tajikistan should be permitted to vote in the Assembly until 30 June 2004.

(*Signed*) Kofi **Annan**
Secretary-General

United Nations A/58/688*

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 January 2004

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 124
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 19 January 2004 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

1. At present 26 Member States are in arrears under the terms of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations, which states as follows:

> "A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member."

2. The minimum payments necessary to reduce the amounts owed by those Member States on their contributions so that they remain below the gross amount assessed for the preceding two full years (2002 and 2003) are as follows:

Member State	*Minimum payment (United States dollars)*
Afghanistan	41 500
Antigua and Barbuda	33 200
Benin	14 400
Cape Verde	3 100
Central African Republic	321 700*
Chad	10 030
Comoros	745 800*
Georgia	6 866 500*
Guinea-Bissau	460 900*
Iraq	14 623 200

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Member State	*Minimum payment (United States dollars)*
Kenya	119 000
Lebanon	130 500
Liberia	1 113 100
Malawi	7 900
Mauritania	11 400
Niger	367 000[a]
Paraguay	24 400
Republic of Moldova	1 752 000[a]
Sao Tome and Principe	564 100[a]
Solomon Islands	13 100
Somalia	992 500[a]
Suriname	9 400
Tajikistan	1 441 900[a]
Uganda	56 600
Vanuatu	500
Venezuela	3 185 600

[a] In its resolution 58/1 of 16 October 2003, the General Assembly decided that Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, the Niger, the Republic of Moldova, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia and Tajikistan should be permitted to vote in the Assembly until 30 June 2004.

(*Signed*) Kofi **Annan**
Secretary-General

United Nations A/58/688/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 February 2004

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 124
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 3 February 2004 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

Further to my letter dated 19 January 2004 (A/58/688), I have the honour to inform you that Antigua and Barbuda has made the payment necessary to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**
Secretary-General

04-22745 (E) 030204

United Nations A/58/688/Add.2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 February 2004

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 124
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 11 February 2004 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

Further to my letters dated 19 January and 3 February 2004 (A/58/688 and Add.1), I have the honour to inform you that Paraguay has made the payment necessary to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**
Secretary-General

04-23751 (E) 110204

United Nations A/58/688/Add.3

General Assembly

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24 February 2004

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 124
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 24 February 2004 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

Further to my letters dated 19 January and 3 and 11 February 2004 (A/58/688 and Add.1 and 2), I have the honour to inform you that Lebanon has made the payment necessary to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(Signed) Kofi A. **Annan**
Secretary-General

04-24906 (E) 240204

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General Assembly

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25 February 2004

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 124
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 25 February 2004 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

Further to my letters dated 19 January and 3, 11 and 24 February 2004 (A/58/688 and Add.1-3), I have the honour to inform you that Kenya has made the payment necessary to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**
Secretary-General

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General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 37
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 20 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I enclose herewith a summary of violations committed by Israel against Lebanese sovereignty.

At 1630 hours on 19 January 2004 an Israeli enemy force breached the Blue Line close to the village of Marwahin, when an armoured bulldozer crossed the border fence and entered Lebanese territory at the Birkat Risha outpost, opposite the villages of Bustan and Marwahin. The resistance then fired a rocket at the bulldozer, making a direct hit.

A military spokesman for the enemy later admitted that an Israeli bulldozer which had advanced several metres into Lebanese territory had been hit by a rocket and destroyed. In his statement, he said that one soldier had been killed and another had been seriously injured, and he threatened retaliation for the incident.

At 1030 hours on 20 January 2004 a patrol consisting of international emergency forces based in southern Lebanon, accompanied by officers of the Lebanese unit that liaises with those forces, conducted an inspection of the site where the breach had occurred. After taking the necessary measurements, using topographical equipment, they established the following facts:

- The enemy armoured bulldozer broke through the technical fence on the Blue Line at the middle post B23, located between the border posts BP8 and BP9, to the east of Birkat Risha, close to the village of Marwahin. The coordinates of the site of the violation are Vertical: 105150 and Horizontal: 129960.
- The Israeli bulldozer spent a long time inside Lebanese territory digging a hole of a depth of approximately 26 (25.9) metres and a width of around 200 metres.
- The crew of the enemy bulldozer had been intent on penetrating further into Lebanese territory, before elements of the resistance were obliged to fire a rocket at the bulldozer in order to prevent it from continuing its advance northwards inside Lebanese territory.

04-21505 (E) 230104 230104

- It is worth noting that, on 2 January 2004, the Israeli enemy breached the Blue Line in the vicinity of the middle post B24, close to the site of the incident, south of Marwahin. On that day, it excavated a plot of Lebanese land measuring approximately 300 metres x 25 metres and took down the border post that marks point B24 (point 46 on the Blue Line) in order to get a clear view of the line of fire in front of its fortified positions close to the Zar'it settlement inside the Occupied Territories.

- On 3 January 2004 the Lebanese liaison unit submitted a written letter of protest to the international emergency forces about the deliberate Israeli violation that had just occurred. They asked those forces to take the necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of such violations, which, if repeated by the enemy, could serve to escalate the situation and heighten tensions.

This grave violation is part of a series of provocative and persistent violations being committed by Israel against the integrity of Lebanon's airspace, territorial waters and territory, in contravention of the principles of international law, of Security Council resolutions and the repeated calls by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the cessation of such violations.

In light of these violations and the increasingly threatening tone being used by Israel against Lebanon and against the integrity of its territory and its people, Lebanon calls on the Security Council to restrain Israel and to prevent it from carrying out these violations and threats, which are a threat to international security and peace. We call on Israel to bear full responsibility for whatever consequences may ensue.

In calling your attention to the gravity and possible consequences of these violations, I request that this letter of complaint be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sami **Kronfol**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/58/689–S/2004/54*

General Assembly
Security Council

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27 January 2004
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General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 37
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 20 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

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A military spokesman for the enemy later admitted that an Israeli bulldozer which had advanced several metres into Lebanese territory had been hit by a rocket and destroyed. In his statement, he said that one soldier had been killed and another had been seriously injured, and he threatened retaliation for the incident.

At 1030 hours on 20 January 2004 a patrol consisting of international emergency forces based in southern Lebanon, accompanied by officers of the Lebanese unit that liaises with those forces, conducted an inspection of the site where the breach had occurred. After taking the necessary measurements, using topographical equipment, they established the following facts:

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- The Israeli bulldozer spent a long time working at a depth of approximately 26 (25.9) metres and a width of around 200 metres inside Lebanese territory.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

04-21505* (E) 230104 270104

- The enemy bulldozer and its accompanying support had been intent on penetrating further into Lebanese territory, before elements of the resistance were obliged to fire a rocket at the bulldozer in order to prevent it from continuing its advance northwards inside Lebanese territory.

- It is worth noting that, on 2 January 2004, the Israeli enemy breached the Blue Line in the vicinity of the middle post B24, close to the site of the incident, south of Marwahin. On that day, it excavated a plot of Lebanese land measuring approximately 300 metres x 25 metres and took down the border post that marks point B24 (point 46 on the Blue Line) in order to get a clear view of the line of fire in front of its fortified positions close to the Zar'it settlement inside the Occupied Territories.

- On 3 January 2004 the Lebanese liaison unit submitted a written letter of protest to the international emergency forces about the deliberate Israeli violation that had just occurred. They asked those forces to take the necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of such violations, which, if repeated by the enemy, could serve to escalate the situation and heighten tensions.

This grave violation is part of a series of provocative and persistent violations being committed by Israel against the integrity of Lebanon's airspace, territorial waters and territory, in contravention of the principles of international law, of Security Council resolutions and the repeated calls by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the cessation of such violations.

In light of these violations and the increasingly threatening tone being used by Israel against Lebanon and against the integrity of its territory and its people, Lebanon calls on the Security Council to restrain Israel and to prevent it from carrying out these violations and threats, which are a threat to international security and peace. We call on Israel to bear full responsibility for whatever consequences may ensue.

In calling your attention to the gravity and possible consequences of these violations, I request that this letter of complaint be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sami **Kronfol**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/58/690–S/2004/55

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 37
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 20 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I enclose herewith a summary of violations committed by Israel from 4 to 8 January 2004.

Violations of airspace

Between 1010 and 1300 hours on 4 January 2004 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew over the sea west of Sidon at a distance of 10 miles from the coast and then circled over the area between Tyre and Damur at an altitude of four miles, thereby violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1150 and 1300 hours on the same date, two Israeli helicopters circled over the occupied Shab'a farmlands. Furthermore, between 1405 and 1410 hours, an Israeli enemy war plane circled over the aforementioned farmlands at high altitude.

Between 1505 and 1520 hours on the same date, two Israeli helicopters circled over the Abad outpost opposite the villages of Hula and Mays al-Jabal, thereby violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1825 and 1930 hours on the same date, two Israeli helicopters circled over the occupied Shab'a farmlands. Between 2125 and 2150 hours they returned and again circled over the aforementioned farmlands.

Between 0750 and 1300 hours on 5 January 2004 an Israeli war plane circled at great altitude over the area opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, breaking the sound barrier and violating Lebanese airspace. It later returned and between 1530 and 1610 hours it circled at great altitude over the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

Between 1530 and 1600 hours on 6 January 2004 an Israeli war plane circled at great altitude over the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

04-21511 (E) 230104 230104

Violations of territorial waters

Between 0030 and 0200 hours on 2 January 2004, in the open sea off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli military boat fired two flare bombs. It returned later, at 1830 hours, and fired a flare bomb over the water.

At 0030 hours on 3 January 2004, in the open sea off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli military boat fired a flare bomb over the water.

Between 1715 and 2000 hours on the same date, four military boats belonging to the Israeli enemy were seen sailing in occupied Palestinian territorial waters.

At 2140 hours on 4 January 2004, in the open sea off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli military boat fired two flare bombs and a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire over the water.

Between 1830 and 2230 hours on 5 January 2004, in the open sea off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli military boat fired two flare bombs over the water.

At 1645 hours on 6 January 2004, in the open sea off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli military boat fired a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire over the water.

At 1859 hours on 8 January 2004, in the open sea off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli military boat fired a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire over the water.

At 0950 hours on 9 January 2004, in the open sea off Ra's al-Naqurah, an Israeli military boat fired a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire. It returned later, at 2235 hours, and fired a number of bursts over the water.

Israeli acts of aggression

Between 1200 and 1240 hours on 2 January 2004 Israeli enemy forces fired a number of bursts of light- and medium-weapons fire from their positions inside the occupied Shab`a farmlands in various directions.

At 1955 hours on 3 January 2004 Israeli enemy forces fired two flare bombs from their position inside the Occupied Territories opposite the village of Yarun over the area surrounding the position.

Between 1255 and 1310 hours on 4 January 2004 Israeli enemy forces strafed the area surrounding their position, opposite the village of Yarun, with bursts of medium-weapons fire.

At 1745 hours on 5 January 2004 Israeli enemy forces strafed the area surrounding their position in Fashkul, inside the occupied Shab`a farmlands, with bursts of medium-weapons fire.

At 0130 hours on 6 January 2004 Israeli enemy forces fired a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire from their position opposite Labuna in the direction of the area surrounding the position.

At 1435 hours on 8 January 2004 Israeli enemy forces fired a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire from their position in Ruwaisa al-Alam in the direction of the area surrounding the position.

This grave violation is part of a series of persistent and provocative violations being committed by Israel against the integrity of Lebanon's airspace, territorial waters and territory, in contravention of the principles of international law, Security Council resolutions and the repeated calls by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the cessation of such violations.

In light of these violations and the increasingly threatening tone being used by Israel against Lebanon and against the integrity of its territory and its people, Lebanon calls on the Security Council to restrain Israel and to prevent it from carrying out these violations and threats, which are a threat to international security and peace. We call on Israel to bear full responsibility for whatever consequences may ensue.

In calling your attention to the gravity and possible consequences of these violations, I request that this letter of complaint be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sami **Kronfol**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative